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THE



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TIMES

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(30p)

Party call for Gromyko and others to quit

Politburo's old guard denounced in public

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

President Gromyko, the Soviet Union's titular head of state, and three other long-serving officials, were urged yesterday to accept responsibility for the legacy of the Brezhnev years — and resign.

The call was made by a senior regional official of the Soviet Communist Party in a speech from the platform of the national conference in Moscow.

In a departure as unusual as anything that has happened at the conference this week, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev interrupted a speech by a party first secretary from Siberia, Mr Vladimir Melnikov, who was in the process of denouncing those responsible for the

stagnation of the Brezhnev era, and asked him to name names. Without flinching, the first secretary from the Siberian region of Komi said that he was thinking of two members of the Politburo — Mr Andrei Gromyko and the former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr Mikhail Solomennitsky, and two members of the Central Committee: Mr Viktor Afanasyev, the editor of *Pravda*, and Mr Georgy Arbatov, the head of the Institute for the Study of the USA and Canada.

In his attack, Mr Melnikov said that those who had

people and the party. He has devoted his life and activities to us. We for our part, however, have only laden him with burdens. We have worked him too hard and Comrade Gromyko today has fallen behind life. But he has done his job and his noble deeds are remembered by the people. The note said that the criticism of Mr Gromyko, made without any warning, had been inappropriate. It ended: "He has the respect and love of the people." According to Tass, the note was loudly applauded from the floor.

But the episode has provided further evidence that Mr Gromyko's star is fading. Last weekend, the policy he had implemented as Foreign Minister under Brezhnev came under attack from senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

The attacks also came at a time when the role of State President is being questioned. On Tuesday Mr Gorbachev suggested as part of his political reform programme that the post of President might in future entail responsibilities more like those of the American Presidency.

Meanwhile, in the continuing ethnic dispute between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, senior Communist Party officials in Armenia made it clear yesterday that the republic had no intention of giving up its support for the transfer of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. They also revealed that the Armenian leadership had submitted proposals to the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan in an attempt to end the conflict.

Answering questions from journalists, Mr Eduard Dzhrbasyan, the head of the literature department at Yerevan University, who is a delegate to the party conference in Moscow, said three options had been proposed: the incorporation of Nagorno-Karabakh into the region of Stavropol in the Russian Federation; direct rule by the Government of the Russian Federation from Moscow; or direct rule by the Soviet Government.

Mr Gorbachev and Mr Melnikov were the two oldest members of the Politburo at 79 and 78 respectively. Mr Arbatov and Mr Afanasyev, who are delegates to the conference, are both only 65, although they rose to prominence under Brezhnev.

While Mr Afanasyev appears to have reservations about Mr Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost*, Mr Arbatov has given his unreserved support to the Soviet leader's programme of political reform.

After Mr Melnikov had spoken, the President of the Supreme Soviet received a carefully worded note from one of the other delegates in partial support of Mr Gromyko. It said: "Andrei Andreyevich Gromyko is a man respected among the

Navratilova goes for record



Sigh of relief: Martina Navratilova, who narrowly beat Chris Evert 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 yesterday, will be playing for a record ninth Wimbledon singles title when she meets Steffi Graf on the Centre Court tomorrow. Wimbledon, pages 41, 42. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Lawson scorns City fears of deficit rising to £12 billion

By Robin Oakley, Rodney Lord and Nicholas Wood

Mr Nigel Lawson yesterday scorned City forecasts of a trade deficit of as much as £12 billion by the end of the year. And in the Commons, Mrs Thatcher brushed aside Labour attacks, saying that the deficit was being "readily financed" by the inflow of foreign private sector capital.

She told MPs that foreign manufacturers were showing great confidence in Britain. When Mr Neil Kinnock asked, if the confidence was so great and the inflow so ready, why does she inflict 9.5 per cent interest rates on British industry and home buyers? Mrs Thatcher replied crisply: "to keep down pressure on inflation".

Tory MPs cheered her and urged Mr Kinnock to try again, but he remained in his seat.

Some ministers remain nervous that the balance of payments will get worse. But other government figures are convinced that the May figures indicate a worse trend than actually exists.

Although the latest figures show the balance of payments was £1.2 billion in the red in May, the Chancellor maintained yesterday that the economy was as strong as it had been for 50 years.

Mr Lawson conceded that his Budget forecast of a £4 billion deficit would be exceeded but dismissed gloomy City prophecies as wide of the mark, pointing to the "equilibrium" in the financial markets.

"I wouldn't take too much notice of teenage scribbles in the City who jump up and

down in an effort to get press attention", he said.

In an interview with *The Times* today, he discloses that the budget surplus would also be larger than he had indicated.

Yesterday at the Kensington by-election he said it was not unusual for a country to have a trade deficit at a time of rapid growth.

But the Chancellor's glowing picture of the economy was rejected by Labour. Mr Robin Cook, a leading member of the Shadow Cabinet, said there was an enormous contrast between the paper world of the City and the real economy of output and exports. He found it "stagger-

ing" that in spite of the oil surplus, Britain should have been running a deficit on visible trade for the first time since the days of Queen Elizabeth I.

"The only other countries that have had stagnant industrial output for the last 8 years are Malawi and Barbados. We produce fewer cars than Spain, less steel than Poland, fewer engineering apprentices than Switzerland."

Mr Lawson confirms in his interview that he has no ambition to become Prime Minister, but indicates that he would welcome a move to the Foreign Office.

He admits that the economy has been growing at an "unsustainably rapid rate" and reaffirms his faith in monetary policy.

WIN £106,000

Portfolio
— PLUS NEW —
Accumulator

● The £4,000 daily prize was shared by five people yesterday so the Portfolio Accumulator fund stands at £106,000. Prices: page 27

TOMORROW

● Dawdling in the Dordogne — Michael Watkins at large in the heart of France

IN PART 2

Two-year ban for Mexico

Mexico has been banned from international football for two years by FIFA for cheating at a qualifying tournament for the world youth championship in Guatemala City last April, when they fielded four over-age players.

The suspension includes the 1990 World Cup and this year's Olympic Games tournament, for which they had qualified. It is the most severe ban ever imposed. Page 38

Rate pressure

A round of interest rate rises in Europe has increased the likelihood of another base rate change in Britain. Page 23

Savoy meeting

Shareholders in the luxury Savoy Hotel group are meeting today to pass judgement on allegations by Trusthouse Forte. Page 23

England out

England made a poor start to the third Test match at Old Trafford when they were bowled out for 135 by the West Indies. Page 42

TIMES FOCUS

As privatization of Britain's power industry becomes a strong possibility, a Special Report looks at the savings being made. Pages 29-32

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Equal pay ruling CBI fears women's claims

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The right of more than 11 million working women to claim equal pay with men doing different jobs won unanimous backing from the House of Lords yesterday in a case brought by five women warehouse workers.

The ruling is the first endorsement by the highest court of the land of the right to bring claims of "equal pay for work of equal value" under the sex equality laws. It was hailed as an "historic victory" by trade unionists and by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

But the Confederation of British Industry warned that the ruling would inflate wages and "have damaging consequences for the competitiveness of British industry". It intends to press the Government for a change in the law.

The case was brought by Mrs Rene Pickstone and four colleagues, who with 800 other women warehouse workers

are employed at Freemans, the mail order firm, at its Peterborough base.

The women, who assemble, check and dispatch the orders, are trying to bring an equal pay claim with male staff who unload and check the goods from the vans. The men earn a

basic weekly wage of £81.88, which is £4.22 more than the women. The women say their work is equal in terms of effort, skill and decision-making to the men.

But Freemans has opposed their right to bring the claim, arguing that as long as a man is doing the same work — in this case six men were doing the same work as the women and now some 50 are — they cannot bring a claim.

In his judgement Lord Keith of Kinkel said that if employers were able to evade the equal pay laws by "employing one token man on the same work as a group of potential women claimants" they would be deliberately paid less than the men doing work of equal value, it would mean that the United Kingdom had "failed again" in its obligations to comply with EEC law. "It is plain that Parliament cannot possibly have intended such a failure."

Law report, page 33



Bank may be sued over Clowes affair

By Lawrence Lever

Lawyers for Barlow Clowes liquidators in Gibraltar are considering a multi-million pound legal action against Lloyds Bank. This follows the discovery that payments for private jet hire and personal expenses were made from a Lloyds account in Jersey that was clearly marked as a clients' account.

Millions of pounds of investors' money in Barlow Clowes, the crashed investment group, was paid into the account. The investors thought it would be invested in government securities. However it has emerged that millions of pounds was diverted from the account. Irregular payments have been discovered by the liquidators for private jets and personal expenditure by the directors of Barlow Clowes.

A cheque for £25,400 made in payment for the hire of private jets was drawn on a Barlow Clowes investors' account from Lloyds Bank in Jersey.

Cork Gully, joint liquidator for Barlow Clowes International, has a copy of the cheque, and details of other irregular payments.

The *Times* has also seen a copy of the cheque, clearly marked "Barlow Clowes & Partners SA - clients' call account" and is payable to a private jet company.

A Lloyds spokesman said the bank was co-operating with the BCI liquidators. Midland Bank has also come under scrutiny since one of its banks in Jersey also handled money belonging to investors in BCI. At least £138 million was invested in BCI. Apart from any legal action by the liquidators, the investors may also have legal grounds for action against the bank.

Solar flare leaves pigeon fanciers in a flap

By Boris Johnson

Pigeon owners were yesterday scanning the skies for hundreds of missing birds. It was sheer bad luck that one of the greatest annual international pigeon racing days, with more than 40,000 birds in flight, should have coincided with the largest solar flare for four years.

At 5.20 am on Friday 3,000 pigeons were released from the town of Bourges in the south of France, under the auspices of the Up North Compline, the largest pigeon-fancying group in Britain, and expected to arrive at their homes in the north of England the following day.

Almost 93 million miles away a vast jet of gas leapt from the surface of the sun for 91 minutes, causing

electromagnetic disturbances in the earth's atmosphere.

As hundreds of owners waited at their pigeon roosts on Saturday and Sunday, it became clear that something had gone wrong. "They just didn't come home," said Mr Derek Towers, the secretary and manager of the Up North Compline. "It was a total disaster. The same thing happened to the Germans, the Dutch and the Belgians, who were sending them from Barcelona, and they did not have a Channel to cross."

At 4.30 am the Meteorological Office had issued a forecast indicating that conditions were almost perfect for pigeon racing. There were mild head-winds, but nothing to suggest the massive no-show that occurred. By

the time Mr Towers closed the race on Sunday only 283 of a total of about 5,000 British birds had completed the distance from three starting-points in the south of France.

"Nobody really knows how pigeons navigate, but the only explanation I can think of is this solar flare I read about," he said.

The winning bird, owned by Fand J Gray of Newbiggin, Northumberland, travelled the 580 miles by 8.30 am on Saturday, to win a gold trophy and an unspecified amount of prize money. But hundreds of other racing pigeons, worth an average of £20, and sometimes as much as £40,000, were still missing.

According to Mr Chris Mead, of the British Trust of Ornithology, pigeons

orientate themselves by a variety of means. "They use polarised light, they use smell, and there is also undoubtedly scientific evidence that they orient themselves through the earth's magnetic field."

"The lines of the earth's magnetic field point into the earth, and the pigeons find the acute angle and follow it. But if the magnetic lines of force are affected by a solar flare, the pigeons' steering may be messed up." Once pigeons were displaced laterally because of an error near the outset, they found it hard to get back on course. "They flap around for ages, or get eaten, or drop in the water. Most of the pigeons in Trafalgar Square were originally racing pigeons who got lost," he said.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

School guideline fuels cash fear

New guidelines on setting up and running schools that opt out of local authority control will fuel fears that schools are to be encouraged to do so by promises of more cash than they already receive.

The guidelines, issued by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, as a draft circular for parents, local authorities and schools, make it clear that he will be the arbiter of how much a school may receive to balance the loss of services provided formerly by the local authority.

A new government-backed trust set up to help schools to apply for grant-maintained status is drawing up a confidential list of likely candidates by canvassing local Tory politicians. The Grant-Maintained Schools Trust, chaired by Mr Steve Norris, a former Conservative MP, has written to well informed local figures asking for the names of schools that might consider opting out.

Fare share for guards

British Rail guards are to be paid a commission of 2 per cent of any fares they collect from fare dodgers. British Rail hopes that the scheme will help to cut its losses from non-payment of fares, estimated at between £30 million and £40 million a year. About £20 million of that is accounted for by fare-dodging on the commuter services of Network SouthEast. The scheme will come into effect on October 3.

Haughey in hospital

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, was taken to hospital yesterday morning shortly before he was due in the Dail to make a statement on the economy and on Anglo-Irish relations. Mr Haughey is suffering from a kidney stone. The Mater private hospital said the condition was "painful but not dangerous" and Mr Haughey is expected back at work on Monday. His statement, which dealt largely with the success of the economy, reiterated his commitment to the Anglo-Irish agreement and determination to stamp out terrorism, was read to the Dail for him.

Fabergé court ruling

Insurers who paid for the loss of a collection of Fabergé animal figures from Cottesbrooke Hall, near Northampton, seven years ago, have been allowed to claim back pieces from the group, which were traced by police. The London jeweller, Wartski, which bought the pieces legitimately, agreed in the High Court yesterday to hand over the figures of a hen, a chimpanzee, and a set of piglets, and to pay £17,710 to the underwriters in respect of a bloodhound, which it had also bought legitimately.

NHS pioneer's lottery

The health authority chosen by Aneurin Bevan to launch the National Health Service 40 years ago is about to introduce the country's first legal NHS lottery. A hundred thousand tickets at 50p each go on sale throughout Trafford, South Manchester, next week.

Conditions at centre are appalling, says Chief Inspector of Prisons
Urgent action urged at 'squalid' Risley

By Peter Evans

Conditions at Risley Remand Centre near Warrington, Chester, are "barbarous and squalid", Judge Tumim, the Chief Inspector of Prisons said yesterday.

He said the centre, dubbed "Gristly Risley", was a poorly designed institution where many inmates were kept in "appalling and totally unacceptable" conditions. In a Home Office report, Judge Tumim said the centre should be rebuilt as soon as possible.

Male inmates remained there were for the large part "forgotten people", apart from the times they were allowed to see relatives and lawyers, or were processed to appear in court.

The report said urgent action should be taken to prevent more suicides at Risley, where six people on remand died within a year. While no prison establishment could guar-

antee suicide prevention, every precaution should be taken.

Judge Tumim said three factors might have contributed to depression and suicide at Risley — an increase in mentally ill inmates; squalid physical conditions; and "shocking disregard" of staff guidelines on the recognition of suicidal tendencies.

The report also expressed concern about lack of staff continuity, which seriously impaired relations with inmates, and Risley's large catchment area.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said in a statement yesterday that steps to prevent suicide were being given high priority.

All new inmates at Risley were being assessed for suicidal tendencies on the day they arrived at the centre. Staff were being trained in suicide prevention and a committee had been formed to devise precautionary strategies.

Risley was opened in 1964, conceived as a short-term centre where people would be held for a few weeks for medical reports. However, Britain's over-stretched prison system has ensured that stays of eight or nine months at the centre are now not unusual.

Risley receives prisoners on remand from courts throughout the North of England and parts of the Midlands. Some have been convicted and await probation and medical reports before sentence. Most, however, are untried.

Last year, 31,904 people passed through the centre, 4,971 of them women, housed in their own wing. Initial impressions on walking through centre's tall double gates are deceptive. Neat single and double-storey buildings are fringed by well-kept grass verges with borders of flowers.

However, the buildings have long proved inadequate, with thousands

of pounds spent just to maintain their current condition.

About half the inmates are consigned to 9ft-square rooms, shared between two people, where they may spend up to 23 hours a day.

The only lavatory facilities in the cells are plastic containers which inmates "slop out" in the mornings. Rather than endure the stench of their own urine all night, some prisoners simply relieve themselves out of their cell windows.

The cells are furnished with bunk beds, a simple table and two chairs. In the male wings — some of which badly require renovation — the walls are a mass of obscene graffiti.

Prisoners are entitled to daily exercise and visits, although the distances involved often make visiting impossible for relatives. Inmates have association sessions on average once a week, and are provided with a library service and limited education facilities. They

can also volunteer for work, women prisoners receiving £1.55 a week for tasks such as assembling plugs.

Staff concede that drugs are sometimes smuggled in, but say such problems are not as great as reports suggest.

In the longer term, Risley is intended to become a local prison. Freeing accommodation by removing most of the inmates aged under 21 is the first step in a £2.5 million programme of improvements its B and C wings, where most male remands are held, and refurbishment is expected to be completed by autumn next year.

Longer-term redevelopment will begin in June next year, according to the Home Office. It will take six years to complete, at a cost of £50 million. *HM Remand Centre Risley. Report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (Home Office, London, £1.50).*

Ridley abandons plan for phasing in poll tax

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The community charge will be introduced in the whole of England and Wales on April 1, 1990. The Government yesterday dropped plans for phasing in the reforms in London.

The announcement signalled a remarkable second U-turn by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, and demonstrated his confidence that he has won the battle for controlling high-spending left-wing councils in the capital.

The announcement came as the Government suffered its first defeat on its poll tax proposals when The House of Lords passed an amendment allowing the Secretary of State to reduce the amount of community charge to be paid

by some student nurses. They will eventually become exempt from the charge.

The decision not to phase in the community charge was made in response to lower spending by many councils, together with the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority.

Originally, the Government planned to charge London residents £100 a year each together with a proportion of their rates over four years from 1990.

Mr Ridley, who campaigned among his colleagues for a rapid switch from rates to poll tax, persuaded a Cabinet committee last November to drop plans for a transitional period of a dual running of the

two systems except for high spending areas of London. He later went a step further by yielding to pleas for an instant switch from rates to poll tax from four authorities: Westminster, Wandsworth, Kensington and Chelsea and Waltham Forest.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Local Government, said: "It will not be possible for local authorities to hide behind the confusion in people's minds caused by paying two different sets of bills."

"The consequences of their actions for the community charge payer will be absolutely clear-cut." He hopes the single step change will be a vote-winner for the Conservatives. *Parliament, page 12*

Triumph on equal pay



Smiles of victory yesterday from Mrs Rane Pickstone, centre, and two colleagues, Elaine Pyffe, left, and Rita Roberts, after the House of Lords ruled that women were entitled to the same pay as men for different work of equal value (Photograph: Alan Weller).

Cruise liner plan

Tikkoo may buy Ulster yard

By Philip Webster and Tim Jones

Mr Ravi Tikkoo, the Indian shipping magnate, has called in a merchant bank to determine whether he will buy the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast as part of a deal which would enable him to build a huge cruise liner provisionally called the Ultimate Dream.

Last night, a spokesman for Mr Tikkoo confirmed that the Northern Ireland Office had approached him about the possibility of taking over the loss-making yard.

A statement issued on his behalf said: "The proposition requires a careful and detailed analysis and is being considered on that basis. Tikkoo Cruise Line have engaged Hambros Bank to advise them in this respect."

His plan to build the £260 million cruise liner is the only firm prospect of a future order at the yard, which employs 3,900 workers, officials confirmed. Yesterday,

More than 12,000 workers employed on constructing Britain's Trident nuclear submarines at the VSEL yard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, were told last night that jobs and orders worth millions of pounds would be lost unless they abandoned their strike over the right to take holidays when they wish. More than seven hours of talks between management and representatives of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions failed to resolve the issue.

the board of Harland and Wolff said it recognized that privatization could offer the best long-term future for the company, its employees and the other companies which depend on it for vital work.

Mr T. J. Parker, chairman and chief executive of Harland and Wolff, said: "However, the firm proviso must be that it is

established on a sound basis from the outset — with a suitable new owner — in order that it should have the best opportunity for a viable long-term future."

It is being suggested that the Government will support Mr Tikkoo's appeal for aid to build the liner, thought to be up to £100 million, in return for his buying the yard.

Mr Peter Viggers, the Northern Ireland industry minister, ended doubts over Mr Tikkoo's interest when he said in the Commons that Tikkoo Cruise Line had come forward expressing an interest in acquiring the yard.

Mr Viggers told MPs: "The Government will consider this and any proposals from any other parties which might lead to the privatization of the company."

Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, urged Mr Viggers to ensure job security for the workforce in any privatization.

Owen urges European role

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The City of London's position as one of the world's leading financial centres will be jeopardized if Britain stands aside from the setting up of a European central bank, Dr David Owen declared yesterday.

The SDP leader issued his warning as he was campaigning in the Kensington by-election where his party is fighting for survival in a battle that principally involves its centre ground rival, the Social

and Liberal Democrats. It followed on from his clash with the Prime Minister last week when Mrs Margaret Thatcher told him there was no point in such a bank because a united states of Europe was not on the cards.

Yesterday, Dr Owen said: "Eventually, a European central bank will come and the rightful place of such a bank is London. It would be deeply damaging to the dominant position of London if a Euro-

pean central bank was to be sited either in Frankfurt, Paris or Brussels."

He said that Mrs Thatcher had a "vital interest" to protect in the City of London General election 1987: Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (C) 14,818; Ben Bousquet (Lab) 10,371; William Goodhart (SDP) 5,379; R F Shorter (Green) 528; L Carrick (Ind) 65; M Hughes (Ind) 30. Majority 4,447. Electorate 48,212.

Kasparov facing two crucial games

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

In the World Chess Cup at Belfort, France, Gary Kasparov, the world champion, faces his greatest test. He plays in consecutive rounds with the Black pieces against Anatoly Karпов and Britain's Nigel Short in rounds 13 and 14 of this 15-round event.

After 12 rounds Kasparov has built up a dominating lead, but he must still overcome the hurdle of consecutive Black games against two of his most dangerous rivals if he is to triumph.

Results in round 12 (White players named first)

Kasparov beat Ribes; Karпов drew with Short; Shortley drew with Anderson; Noguera drew with Ljubojevic; Ribes drew with Hjartarson; Hubner drew with Spasnyk; Timman lost to Spelman.

Scores after 12 rounds: Kasparov (USSR) 9½; Karпов (USSR) 8½; Short (England) 7½; Hjartarson (West Germany) 7½; Spasnyk (France) 7; Ribes (Hungary) 6½; Short (England) 6; Spelman (England) 6; Anderson (Sweden) 5½; Noguera (Cuba) 5½; Uspov (USSR) 5; Benavsky (USSR) 5; Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) 5; Timman (Holland) 4½.

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Families protest to MP over 'injustice' of child abuse cases

By Ian Smith

A dossier on "the forgotten children" in Leeds diagnosed as victims of sexual abuse will be handed to the Government next week.

Parents Against Injustice (Pain), which represents 25 families and 64 children, yesterday sent Mr Stuart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough, 33 disturbing case histories.

The group says the cases exemplify the "disgraceful and shoddy treatment" of parents and children by doctors and social workers in Leeds. Mr Bell will study the dossier with other cases from throughout the country.

He will ask Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to order a judicial review of each case if the Cleveland inquiry report from Lord Justice Butler-Stoos questions the reliability of the contentious reflex anal dilatation technique.

Each diagnosis of sexual abuse was allegedly based on that technique and all except one occurred before the Cleveland crisis. The children were aged between seven months and 15 years.

Dr Jane Wynne made seven diagnoses of sexual abuse and a further five were reached by Dr Christopher Hobbs. Their methods were employed by two paediatricians in Middlesbrough General Hospital.

Mrs Sue Amphlett, director of Pain and a nurse whose two

daughters, now aged eight and six, were once placed on an "at risk" register, says the appalling plight of families in Leeds has been ignored because they lie in the shadow of the Cleveland investigation.

The group is pressing for a re-evaluation of the system used to protect children suspected of being at risk as well as seeking judicial reviews.

The parents want second opinions in every case where abuse is diagnosed and video films taken of every disclosure interview with the child.

Parents should be kept informed at every stage and given the opportunity to attend crucial case conferences at which the future of their children is determined.

The group says parents are currently not only refused access to any part of case conferences but often not even told they are taking place.

Social services staff insist that children be allowed to give personal families details at case conferences in cases where the child is considered to be of a responsible age.

Mrs Amphlett said: "The fate of entire families rests in the hands of a few individuals. That must change at once. Hearings should be multidisciplinary attended by second opinions from doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, and those families affected."

"Instead, a handful of people rule supreme, whatever they say is accepted without question. As none of us is infallible that should never be allowed to happen."

According to the Pain report, eight of the children were attending clinics or treatment units because of medical problems when they were diagnosed as abuse victims.

In five families siblings of those diagnosed as sexually abused were subsequently examined with parental consent; in those cases seven supposedly demonstrated reflex anal dilatation, and therefore abuse, while a further four displayed no signs of maltreatment. Nonetheless, all siblings were taken into care.

In 13 out of 14 families being studied by the group, none of the children at any stage substantiated allegations of sexual abuse. In the other case a child is said to have spoken of parental sexual interference while in social services care though no transcripts or tape of the disclosure interview is available.

However, of the 33 youngsters evaluated, 14 were said to be in moral danger because another child in the family had allegedly been abused. Subsequently, no signs of abuse had been found or any allegations of impropriety made by the children.

Stately home turns open house



Lord and Lady Carnarvon with their grandson Jackie outside Highclere Castle yesterday aboard the Red Bug Buckboard, an early American motorized vehicle that has been with the family since 1929 (Photograph: Stephen Markeson).

By Robin Young

From Sunday the public will be able to explore the rooms of Highclere Castle, Hampshire, where earlier this year Lord Carnarvon, the grandson of the man who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun, unearthed a hoard of Egyptian antiquities which had lain forgotten for more than 60 years.

The Egyptian government had demanded the return of the treasure, threatening legal action, but yesterday Lord Carnarvon said: "We have heard no more since they realized that the objects did

not come from the tomb of Tutankhamun itself."

"There was a new man at the ministry of culture and a new curator at the Cairo museum who were anxious to make their mark and take a fundamentalist attitude, but it seems to have gone quiet."

So the treasure becomes the principal attraction at the earl's stately home, on which he has spent £200,000 in making it ready for the admission of the public. The relics came to light while Lord Carnarvon and his family were preparing to open the house to the public as part of

the settlement of death duties agreed after the death of the 6th Earl last year.

Lord Carnarvon had asked his retired butler, Mr Robert Taylor, whether they had seen everything, but Mr Taylor replied: "Except for the Egyptian stuff", and then led the earl to two cupboards hidden between the blocked-up doorways between the drawing and smoking rooms. They were full of antiquities stuffed in cigarette boxes.

More artefacts were found in the room which the 6th Earl had used as a photographic dark room.

Howard Carter, the archaeologist who was the fifth Lord Carnarvon's partner in excavating Tutankhamun's tomb, described the objects, which all derive from the two men's earlier excavations, as "a few unimportant antiquities", when he packed the Carnarvon collection off to the Bank of England for eventual sale to the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

Now they are regarded as historically priceless and the castle's music room has had its French furniture decanted into the drawing room to make way for their exhibition.

Consultant cheated NHS

By Michael Horsnell

A gynaecologist who cheated the health service by booking a woman into a NHS hospital without disclosing she was his private patient was sent to prison for 15 months yesterday.

Peter Firth, aged 54, a £115,000 a year consultant who is said to have pioneered life-saving techniques, was told by the judge that prison was the only sentence.

Miss Beryl Cooper, QC, the Recorder at Worthing Crown Court, told him: "You behaved in such a way as to destroy that essential basis of trust between doctor and patient and doctor and health authority."

The jury found him guilty of sending a woman to a health service hospital for treatment for 11 and five days on two occasions without revealing she was his private

patient. It meant a loss to the authority of £1,579. Firth, father of four, of Hurswood Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, denied nine specimen charges of deception and attempted deception. The jury found him guilty on four charges and cleared him on five others.

The Recorder told him: "It is a tragedy to see you standing there. But the jury have found you to have been dishonest."

She said he had been convicted on representative counts. "From these frauds I believe that you increased your income. You were a consultant and the head of your department. It is essential that persons of that status should be treated not to deceive in order to make dishonest financial gains for themselves or to save their patients money."

Firth, a consultant at Cuckfield and Haywards Heath Hospitals in Sussex, was cleared of doubling his fees by charging his private patients and also billing the health service. He was also cleared of charging fees for visiting two women patients who were already dead.

Firth told the jury he had accidentally mixed up his private and NHS patients. He had relied on his memory and had not deliberately cheated.

Mr John Rogers QC, for the defence, said: "He has suffered dreadful stigma, and his career is now finished". He would be considering an appeal.

Firth was also ordered to pay £10,000, part of the £24,000 prosecution costs, and £1,579 compensation to Mid Downs Health Authority, West Sussex.

Legionella link to building-site dust

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

An expert in construction science said yesterday that there was evidence that outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease is linked to dust from building sites.

Professor Patrick O'Sullivan, of the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, said that research had shown that 90 per cent of the outbreaks of the disease in Britain has occurred where the air-conditioning systems of the buildings are in close proximity to a building site. He said that dust has been

found to provide a source of nutrient for the legionella bacteria which build up the air-conditioning systems. It also has the power to neutralize common sterilizing agents used to clean the air-cooling plant of buildings.

The warning comes after the outbreak of the disease at the BBC's Broadcasting House in central London, in which two men died and dozens detained in hospital. The offices are surrounded on three sides by building sites.

Professor O'Sullivan, who is involved in the inquiry into the BBC outbreak, called for guidelines to be introduced to

warn the owners of offices of the effects of building sites near by. "There should be a mechanism when building work starts in an area of high population density to tell people to take extra precautions". The Health and Safety Executive should enforce such guidelines to protect office workers, he said.

The Department of Health and Social Security is drawing up new guidelines for building maintenance engineers, requiring weekly inspections of air conditioning systems for hospitals. The guide is expected to be published later this month.

Killer given life sentence

A skinhead who murdered a man for eight cigarettes was jailed for life by the Central Criminal Court yesterday, with the recommendation that he serve at least 15 years.

Anthony "Boxer" Carroll, aged 24, of Kenish Town, north London, stabbed a waiter, Mr Abadus Satar, aged 36, to death on May 24 last year as he was walking home in Hampstead, north-west London.

Union pays damages for strike

The first teaching union to be sued by an education authority for taking illegal industrial action, yesterday agreed a substantial out-of-court settlement for damages plus costs.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers and the Hereford and Worcester County Council issued a joint statement saying that they hoped to achieve a new working relationship together based on "mutual respect and understanding".

The council originally took the union to the High Court in February this year claiming £48,000 damages in respect of a half-day strike in November 1986. Neither side would discuss details of the final settlement yesterday, but it is understood to be in the regions of £40,000 plus costs.

WPC driver is cleared

A woman police constable was yesterday cleared of causing death by dangerous driving. WPC Jacqueline Johnston, aged 30, of Kempston, Bedfordshire, was said to have caused an approaching car to lose control and hit another, killing the driver. Mr Mark Jones, the approaching driver, was cleared of a similar charge at St Albans Crown Court.



Michael Parkinson: fulfilling pact.

Heysel 26 may ignore trial

By David Nicholson-Lord

A fresh dispute is looming between Britain and Belgium over the 26 Liverpool football supporters facing manslaughter charges over the Heysel stadium disaster.

It follows legal advice that they should not travel to Brussels to stand trial in October.

Sir Harry Livermore, the Liverpool solicitor who represents 15 of the defendants, has called a meeting today at which the fans will be asked to indicate whether they intend to return to answer their bail. Some have said they will not.

British and Belgian lawyers representing the 26 have claimed that the Belgian Ministry of Justice has put impossible obstacles in the way of a

proper trial. Sir Harry said yesterday that he had received "quite categorical" advice from one Belgian legal expert that the supporters should not turn up for their trial, on the ground that if they were convicted in their absence they could not be extradited, and conflicting advice from counsel in Britain who insisted that they should.

He added: "I am not going to advise them not to attend. I can't do that. I am going to tell them what might happen if they don't attend."

Mr Rex Makin, who represents four defendants, said: "You can't tell clients not to go but you don't have to tell them to go. It may well be that if my clients tell me they are

not going back to Belgium I would be remarkably deaf when it was said."

According to the Home Office, there would be no bar to Belgium submitting a second extradition request for any defendants convicted in their absence.

The public prosecutor's office in Brussels said yesterday it was "too premature to react". However, it is understood that another round of extradition proceedings would be unlikely.

Failure of the supporters to turn up would prove a severe embarrassment to Mrs Thatcher. Immediately after the Heysel disaster in 1985, the Prime Minister said justice must be done.

Car owners prefer Japanese

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

British cars failed to rank among the top 15 makes in the first authoritative survey of customer satisfaction among new car owners in Europe.

Japanese makes, headed by Mazda and Toyota, accounted for four of the five top cars with Mercedes in third place.

Among the 15 marques considered better than average only Japanese, German and Belgian cars featured. British, French and Italian cars were all judged below average when assessed over 18 months for reliability and repair, customer service, quality of the garage and the way warranty claims were dealt with.

The survey was conducted by the Californian marketing consultants J D Power Associates, whose annual US survey has become an accepted industry standard for customer satisfaction research.

The survey was carried out in Belgium which, by virtue of having no dominant domestic car manufacturer and no import restrictions, is seen as a microcosm of the European car market.

Japanese manufacturers dominated each aspect of customer satisfaction. For reliability and repair they were 35 per cent ahead of the European car makers and

their customer service was rated 30 per cent better.

The report claims: "A Mazda owner is twice as likely as a Mercedes owner to receive a follow-up call from the dealer after a service visit."

Rover and Porsche are rated highly for handling warranty problems when faults occur within the first 12 months of ownership yet the report says both makes had a high incidence of warranty claims.

The report concludes that there are still major differences in the manufacturing processes of Japanese and European makes.

Town pays tribute to Harty

A Lancashire town said farewell yesterday to Russell Harty, one of its favourite sons, when hundreds of inhabitants of Blackburn joined celebrities at a memorial service in the cathedral where the television personality was once a server.

As the crowds gathered outside before the start of the service, Mr Harty's friend and fellow presenter, Michael Parkinson, slipped in through a side door avoiding the crush and waiting cameras.

Mr Parkinson gave the eulogy, thereby fulfilling a pact the two had once made in jest after he and Mr Harty

attended a memorial service for Grace Fields.

Mr Parkinson described how Mr Harty had joked that he would do his if "you will do mine". Asked about what he would say, Mr Harty replied: "You can tell them about Grace Jones and I will talk about the Enn".

Mr Parkinson said: "He was convinced he would be remembered as the Grace Jones man."

In a touching but often humorous speech Mr Parkinson described Mr Harty's love for his work and his large number of friends. The congregation included 30 of Mr Harty's relatives, as well as

pupils from his former school, Queen Elizabeth II. "He never neglected the qualities of someone brought up in a north country background. He celebrated his roots", Mr Parkinson said.

"He showed you could take a lad out of Blackburn but you cannot take Blackburn out of the man. I knew him 16 or 17 years and it was not enough. If I knew him 60 years I would not have known him long enough, all his friends feel like that."

"He was a very remarkable man."

Mr Philip Johnson, the headmaster at Mr Harty's former school, read the lesson.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Boost for charity

Yesterday's daily Portfolio prize of £4,000 was shared between five winners and £1,600 of the pool will be donated to charity.

Mr Martin Smith, a partner in Stevens, Hewlett and Perkins, a firm of patent agents in Chancery Lane, central London, had two valid claims, one for himself and one for his company. He is giving the winnings to a cancer appeal at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading.

Mr Dennis Anderson, another winner, is a guidance counsellor at London Central High School in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Mrs Mary Lewis, of Washle Drive, Middleston Cheney, Northamptonshire, and Mr Robert Watkins, of Lincoln Avenue, Wimbledon, south-west London, also won £800.

Ramblers call for controls on pesticides

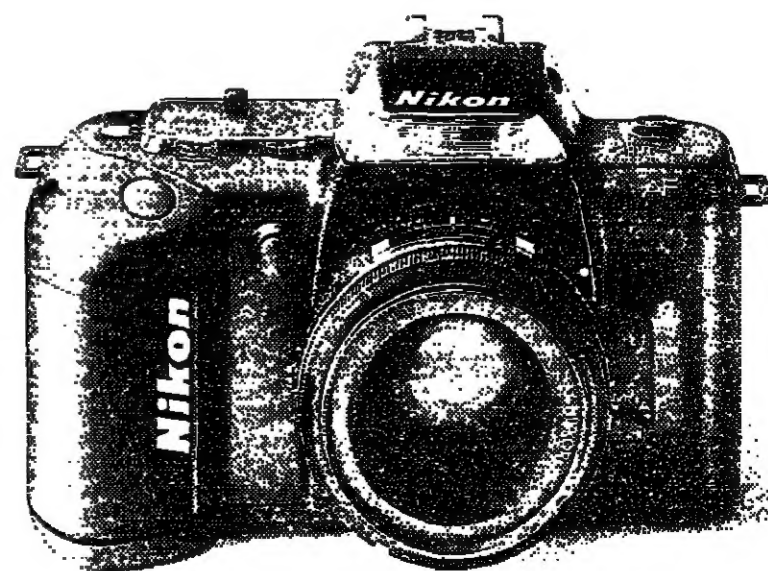
By John Young Agriculture Correspondent

The Government should draw up a list of chemicals guaranteed to be harmless to human health and ban the spraying of all others near footpaths and public open spaces, the Ramblers' Association said yesterday.

Lord Melchett, the association's president, said many pesticides were harmful to livestock and farmers were advised to keep animals away for up to two weeks. Yet no one in government seemed to have noticed that people also walked across fields.

Sir Richard Body, former chairman of the Commons Agriculture Committee, said tests involving rats did not measure the long-term effects of pesticides.

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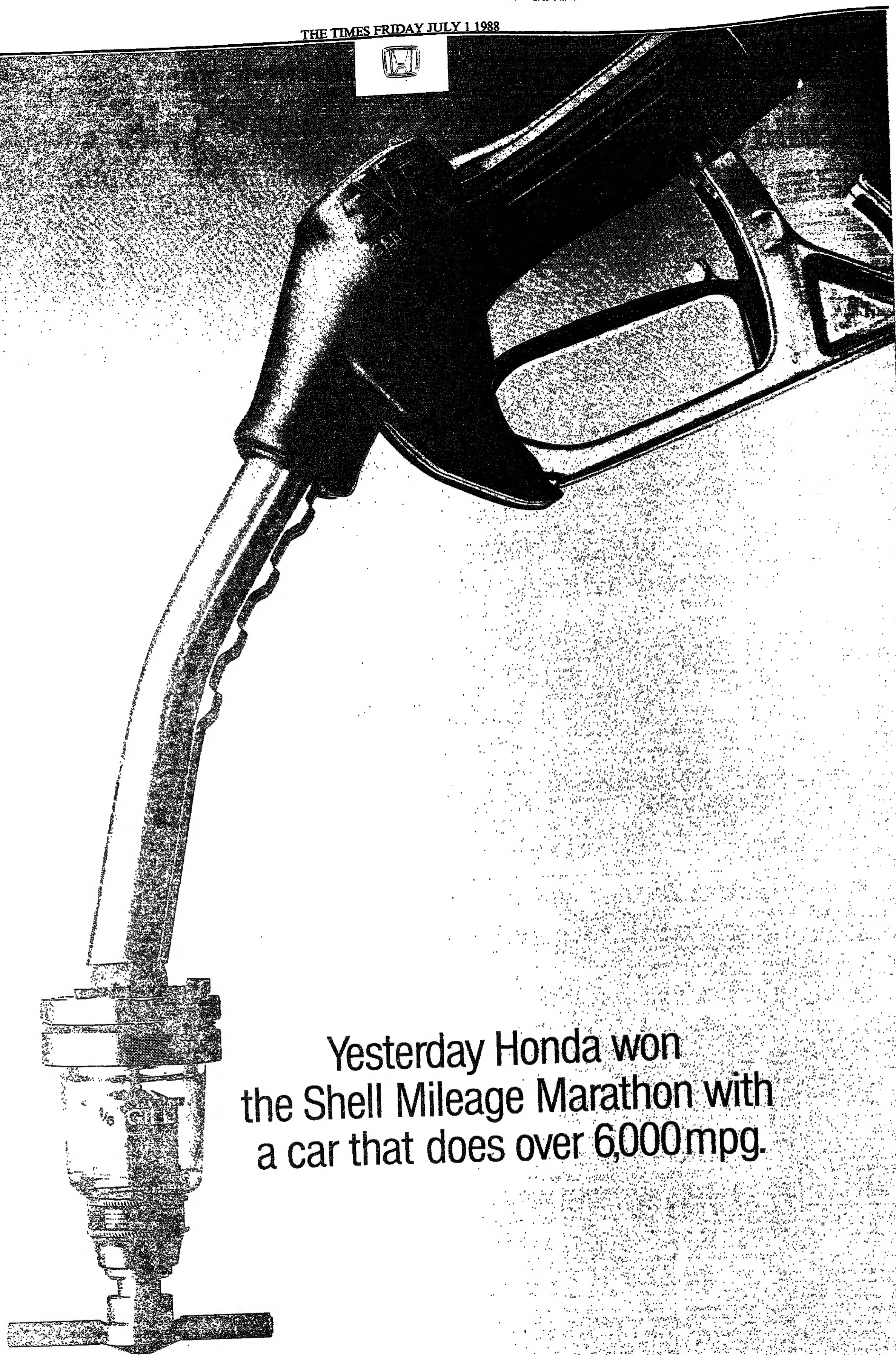
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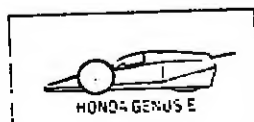
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Gatwick is ignoring night flight quotas to clear congestion

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Up to 15 passenger jets are being granted emergency permission to fly into Gatwick airport each night in an attempt to prevent thousands of holidaymakers from being diverted to airports many miles away from the cars they left in the long-term car park.

Airport officials are being forced to ignore the Government's night flight limit because of a big increase in delays caused by air traffic control congestion throughout Europe. Airlines and MPs are pressing Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, to relax the limits.

At a confidential emergency meeting between airlines and MPs with aviation interests in London this week, airlines said that in the peak months of July, August and September, tens of thousands of Gatwick passengers could find themselves landing at Stansted, Luton or Birmingham, where the noise restrictions are less stringent.

Now Mr Robert McCrindle, chairman of the all-party aviation committee, has written to Mr Channon urging "emergency action", but the Government produced its policy

White Paper on night flights at Gatwick only in February and ministers are reluctant to make changes so soon.

In the meantime, airlines have found a loophole in the regulations which allow them to fly in at night provided they can prove "widespread or sustained disruption outside their control". Between 10 and 15 flights a night are now regularly landing at Gatwick between 11.30pm and 6 am. Because they are using modern quiet jets there has been no increase in complaints.

In February the Government announced that it would allow a maximum of 4,430 night movements this summer which would be shared among all airlines. Those which breached their "quota" would lose daytime movements, which would be removed as punishment.

"The number of people inconvenienced by the ban on night movements at Gatwick massively outweighs the number who might be disturbed locally by airport noise", one airline chief said. "We are now able unofficially to operate the 'rubber clock' with the tacit agreement of the airport

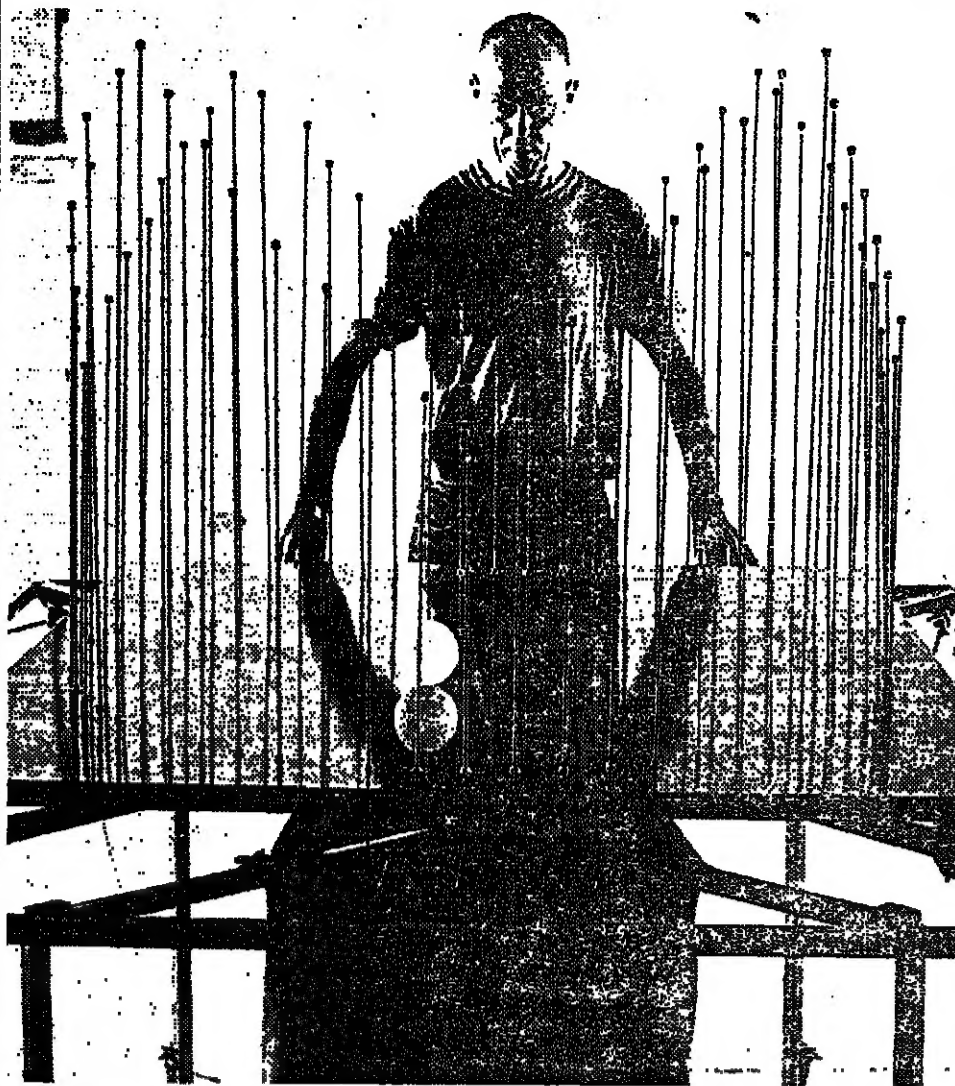
authorities. But this cannot go on and we desperately need the Government to acknowledge the situation and allow us to fly in at night when our aircraft are subjected to the kind of delays which now routinely occur."

In his letter to Mr Channon, Mr McCrindle says: "The increased use of Gatwick by charter flights, the introduction of flow control and the recent announcement of modified night flying restrictions are all converging to create a problem on which emergency action is required."

The Air Transport Users Committee is pressing for new jets, quieter than many propeller aircraft which can use the airport throughout the night, to be allowed to fly in unrestricted.

"Delays to holiday flights, especially at weekends have become the serious problem that many expected", Mr John Cox, the committee's chairman, said. "The use of Gatwick, our busiest holiday airport, is still drastically restricted at night. The suffering forced on users diverted in the small hours to other airports is intolerable."

Musical pinball wizard



Mr David Sawyer, aged 46, from Exeter, poised to perform on his "pinball composer", made from a pinball machine, in preparation for Sounds Unusual, a week-long festival of musical eccentricity beginning tomorrow at the South Bank in London (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

High price of credit

Firms charging 4,000% interest

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

Some lenders are charging 4,000 per cent interest annually on unsecured loans to financially unsophisticated, poor members of the community, a Birmingham barrister said yesterday.

Licensed lenders of weekly collectable credit operate in a market peopled by the least well-educated consumers and charge an average annual percentage rate of 290 to 300 per cent, Miss Anne Andrews, development officer at the Birmingham Settlement Money Advice Centre, said.

She told trading standards officers at their annual conference in Scarborough that in Birmingham some companies are charging 425 per cent, 1,020 per cent and, in one case, more than 4,000 per cent on an annual basis.

"To a middle-income consumer of credit with a bank loan at 10 per cent annual percentage rate this must look like extortionate credit but the Consumer Credit Act does not provide the legal machinery to deal with this sort of problem."

"In any event, the majority of borrowers are unaware of the fact that they do have rights under the Act to reopen extortionate credit bargains", she told the officers.

Licensed credit granters

who lend to middle and low income groups have adopted American collection techniques and systemized their harassment methods, Miss Andrews said.

They telephoned borrowers at work and home several times a day to ask for payment; visited at unsocial hours demanding payment on a daily basis; used aggressive male collectors to intimidate borrowers and advised clients to take out secured loans with the same company to clear existing debts.

Trading standards officers and the police were reluctant to help in dealing with harassment. "It is also possible to criticize the Office of Fair Trading for dragging its feet in disciplinary action through licensing when such abuses have been reported", Miss Andrews said.

Loan sharking, or unlicensed money lending, was increasing with cuts in social security payments.

At the reputable end of the market some consumers still did not understand the expression "secured loan", thinking that it meant the borrower was secure, she said. UK consumers were remarkably bad in sorting out the good from the bad credit deal.

Methodists reject homosexuals ban

By Patrick O'Hanlon

The Methodist Conference unanimously rejected a motion yesterday that "practising homosexuals shall not be received into full connection or ordained into our ministry".

In a brief and emotional debate, the conference voted instead to set up a commission to study the issue of homosexual clergy and report back in two years.

The Rev Brian Beck, conference secretary, said afterwards: "To take a decision now would have us rushing in to a position that we would regret. There are those who are ready to take a decision now but that would force one opinion on the rest."

Mr Beck, in proposing the motion to set up the commission, reminded conference that Aids was transmitted heterosexually as well as homosexually. "It has added a new dimension to promiscuity but it has not introduced a new dimension of morality", he said at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.

He cautioned against quoting biblical texts out of context. "We complain enough when the press reports us loosely and out of context. We mustn't do that to the Bible."

The 25-strong commission was broad and comprehensive in its viewpoint, orientation and expertise, he said.

The Rev Dr John Harrod of Manchester said: "Homosexuals have been around for a long time. They have been in the church for a long time. They are already in our ordained ministry."

The church would be driven to spying on and interrogating homosexuals, he said. "Let us disappoint the tabloids and not get into a stew."

The Rev Barrie Cooke, of Doncaster, called for clear guidance. "Many Methodists are bewildered", he said. "There is widespread distress and sadness among us. I hope we will listen to the angry voices of the homosexual lobby that hide a hurt that needs to be healed, and to the deep and profound feelings of the Methodist people."

Dr Peter Hawker, of north-east London, said there were many causes of homosexuality. "Some are learnt in our upbringing and there is strong evidence that it is congenital. If one identical twin is homosexual there is a very high likelihood that the other will also be", he said.

Weekend food prices

Chicken dearer after drought affects US

The drought in the wheat and soya-growing areas of America will affect Britain. The Chicken Information Service has issued a warning of an increase of 5p a pound in the price of chicken due to the soaring price of feed, which will also affect other meats.

Although the price of beef roasting joints has been creeping up recently there are lots of good ready prepared stir fries available in most shops.

Sainsbury's beef stir fry is £1.60 a pound and lean flash fry steaks cost about £2.76 a pound. Home-produced lamb is cheaper with whole leg an average £1.91 a pound and loin chops £2.33.

Leg of pork is an average £1.07 a pound and boneless shoulder is fractionally cheaper at £1.26.

Boneless leg steaks are down in price at Sainsbury from £1.82 a pound to £1.58. Best meat and poultry offers are Tesco fresh beef mince at 98p and fresh basted chicken 3.9lb to 4.5lb at 74p a pound.

Fresh fish supplies are generally good, although there may be a slight shortage of family favourites such as cod, herring and mackerel by the weekend. However, prices are realistic with cod £1.50 to £2.20 a pound, herring 54p to

£1.30 and mackerel 38p-90p depending on area.

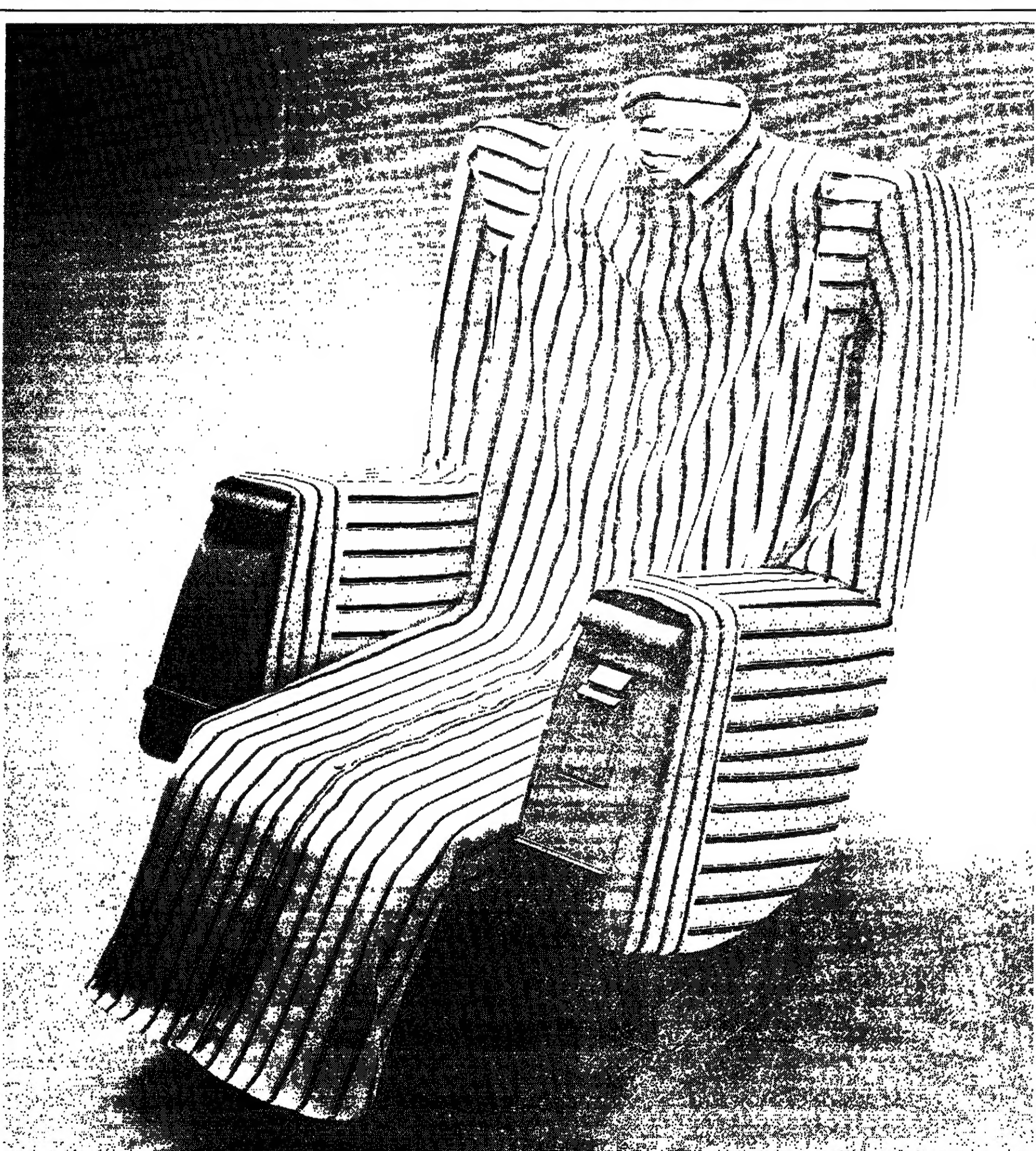
Fish which barbecue well are sardines at £1.20 a pound and whole grey mullet at £1.40. Monk fish is a little more expensive at £3.75 but worth buying for its excellent quality.

Tuna steaks are retailing at about £5.20 a pound and halibut is an excellent choice with specials starting from £3.60 a pound. Superb quality bass is about £5.95.

Lettuces are about 17p-25p each, coss and crisp 30p-25p and red varieties 40p-75p a head. They are all at their best. Cucumbers 25p, spring onions 20p-45p a bunch, English watercress 30p-45p a bunch and hot-house tomatoes 40p-60p a pound are all of wonderful quality.

English strawberries at 40p-75p a half pound are traditional fare at Wimbledon but this year for the first time American blueberries, at 75p to £1 a half pound, were also on the menu.

Cape Granny Smith apples at 25p-45p a pound and bananas at 42p-55p are also recommended; English raspberries are at 90p-£1.20 a quarter pound on the shops or 80-90 a pound if you pick your own.



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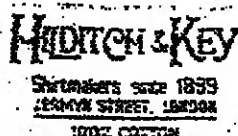
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Universities watchdog

By David Tyler, Education Editor

A former Scottish law lord will oversee the change in the law allowing universities to dismiss academics they consider incompetent. Lord Fraser of Tullylloch, aged 77, begins work as chairman of the University Commissioners in the autumn.

Lord Fraser said yesterday: "I have an open mind but I do think it is wrong that a university cannot get rid of people who are incompetent". The Government's Edu-

cation Reform Bill abolishes security of tenure for academics. The chairman and four other commissioners yet to be appointed will be asked to modify university statutes and set up a disputes procedure.

The four other commissioners are expected to be an academic lawyer, a former university vice-chancellor, an expert on the Scottish system, and a businessman with academic world knowledge.

Violence and sex crimes up as overall rise steadies

By Peter Evans

Violence against the person and sexual offences both increased by 15 per cent in the 12 months to March compared with the same period the previous year, a Home Office statistical bulletin on recorded crime said yesterday.

The rise contrasts sharply with an increase of only 1 per cent in crime overall in England and Wales. Overall recorded offences rose by 37,000 to 3,912,300.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday that the total rise compared with an average annual increase over the last 20 years of 6 per cent.

Crime had dropped by 2.3 per cent in the Metropolitan Police area, by 1.2 per cent in Greater Manchester, 2.9 per cent in West Midlands and 2.6 per cent on Merseyside.

The big city drops he described "contrast with a 3.4 per cent increase in the non-metropolitan areas."

Mr Patten said: "We would suspect that some of the increase in the non-metropolitan areas more rural areas has been due to some of the weekend brawling which has been disturbing some of our otherwise quiet market towns."

There were also rises in West Yorkshire (1.6 per cent), Northumbria (1.8 per cent), and South Yorkshire (0.2 per cent).

Mr Patten said he viewed the 6 per cent drop in domestic burglaries in the context of the Government's crime prevention drive and 50,000 neighbourhood watch schemes, which were beginning to pay off — but the 12 per cent rise in thefts from cars was upsetting. "We would

have had a decline in crime rate in the country but for that fact", he said.

Crimes against the person accounted for about 5 per cent of overall crimes. Mr Patten said he was concerned at the rise in such crimes, which had occurred in spite of longer prison sentences.

Mr Patten hoped measures in the Criminal Justice Bill, expected to get Royal Assent before the summer recess, will provide a package of deterrents.

Under the Bill, knife carriers will have to show they have a good reason for having them or face punishment.

The sale of offensive weapons for which there can be no legitimate use will be banned and suppliers will face imprisonment or a fine.

Criminals carrying firearms will risk life sentences. The Attorney General will be able to refer over-zealous sentences for the most serious offences to the Court of Appeal.

The rules guaranteeing anonymity for rape victims will be strengthened and courts will have to compensate victims of violence except in exceptional circumstances.

Police are hunting two young men who robbed a nun of her handbag containing £2 as she walked across a common at Harlow, Essex. The attackers were wearing balaclava helmets.

Det Inspector John Soanes said: "It horrifies me to think that nuns are subject to attack when they do nothing but good in the community."

The nun, aged 51, who was unhurt, is involved in social work and had been walking home after visiting old people.

Royal Norfolk Show

Dairy cows take a triple rosette

Top dairy cow showed off a triple rosette at the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Show at Costessey, Norfolk.

Mr John Temple, a farmer of New Farm, Wells, Norfolk, carried off the supreme championship for a dual-purpose female. The animal took the breed championship, and was also one of the inter-breed dairy group champions for the best team of three dairy cows.

Mr Temple's prize British Friesian, Foxhole Orange Red, aged seven, has already won the Essex supreme inter-breed title and took the double at the Suffolk Show last month. She now goes to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, next week.

Mr Peter Prior, the herd manager, was delighted by her success and is now hoping to rack more rosettes behind her ears at Stoneleigh.

More than 90,000 people attended the show, under blue skies and with little wind. Mr Gavin Alston, the honorary director, said: "It depends on how many schoolchildren take advantage of their day's holiday to come to this show whether the scale swings above the 100,000 figure."

Record attendance for the two-day show was 101,188 in 1981.

Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in whose constituency, South Norfolk, the show was held, took the day

off to meet people and tour the show on the first day.

Other winners in the dairy group included: Best team of three dairy cows: British Friesian, Foxhole Orange Red, aged seven, has already won the Essex supreme inter-breed title and took the double at the Suffolk Show last month. She now goes to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, next week.

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Wildlife body 'naive' in village owl dispute

By David Nicholson-Lord

A vigorous dispute in a south Devon village over the living quarters of barn owls has led to accusations that the Nature Conservancy Council has failed to protect one of Britain's most endangered species.

The nest has also set a group of conservation-minded residents in Woodleigh at odds with Mr David Barons, a wealthy racehorse trainer.

The villagers claim owls are nesting in two barns Mr Barons wants to convert into flats; he has denied that, and the NCC has resolved the issue by the expedient of accepting his word.

Wodeleigh residents have condemned the council for its failure to investigate, while Mr Barons has accused his critics of being newcomers to the countryside who should consider themselves lucky to be allowed to live there. The barn owl, whose numbers have dropped alarmingly in recent years, is given special protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, making it an offence to damage any nest in use.

Mr Kenneth Hilton, chair-

man of the Woodleigh parish meeting that vetted Mr Barons's building plans, said barn and farm outbuilding conversions were running at nearly 300 in the South Hams area alone. He accused the conservancy council of being sloppy and naive.

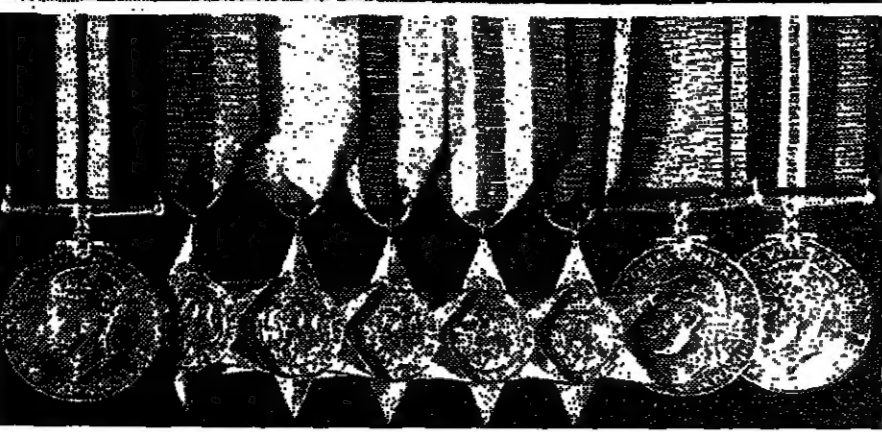
"This is a national problem involving a rare species threatened with the loss of habitat. If the council fails to be concerned even when its attention is drawn to a specific case, what is the point of legislation?"

Mr Peter Nicholson, assistant director of the NCC, said the council had no right of access to sites, but confirmed it had not asked permission for a survey of the barns.

"We were told quite peremptorily that there were no owls there and it was made quite clear that any further investigation by us would not be welcome," he said.

Work has now started on the barns Mr Barons says any owl that arrives there over during the next two years will be found alternative accommodation.

Record price for hero's medals



Reflections of valor: Mr Bill Sparks, still canoeing at 65, and the medals he sold (from left) — Distinguished Service Medal, 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, Italy Star, Burma Star, Defence Medal and War Medal.

By David Nicholson-Lord

Mr Bill Sparks, the last of the "Cockleshell" heroes, sold the medals he won for his role in that historic raid of 1942 for a world record price of £31,000 yesterday.

Mr Sparks, aged 65, decided to part company with his Distinguished Service Medal and seven others because his invalidity pension has been cut and his savings have almost gone.

He said after the auction at Sotheby's: "I kept thinking about the lads who were on the mission with me and who didn't make it. I feel very bitter and sad because it was my prized possession."

However, he added that he was delighted with the price they fetched.

The medals went to an anonymous English collector who surpassed a rival bid of £30,000 by the Royal Marine Museum. Mr David Erskine-Hill, the auctioneer's medal specialist, said the price was staggering.

Mr Sparks was one of several Marines who undertook a perilous sabotage mission in canoes up the Gironde river in France. The raid succeeded in destroying German ships in Bordeaux harbour but claimed a heavy toll: only Corporal Sparks and the leader, Major Blondie

Hasler, who died last year, returned. The story was retold in the 1955 film *Cockleshell Heroes*.

"I lost eight marvellous lads in that raid," Mr Sparks said yesterday. "The medals were a contact with them. Whenever I wore them at the Cenotaph and other parades, I was representing those boys."

Mr Sparks, who with his wife, Irene, aged 68, lives in a caravan at Herringmence, East Sussex, was forced into the sale when his pension was cut by £20 a week after the introduction of new benefit rules this spring.

Near-miss avoided at eleventh hour

Marble relief nets £300,000

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A marble relief originally offered for sale at only £200 sold for £302,500 (including buyer's premium) at H Y Duke & Son of Dorchester yesterday.

The work, thought to be by Antonio Lombardi, the important Renaissance sculptor, probably comes from a frieze designed for the Este Palace in Sassuolo, Italy, home of the Duke of Ferrara. Its fellows are now shared between the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad and the Louvre in Paris.

After a bidding battle between two telephone candidates and William Agnew, the London dealer, Mr Agnew finally prevailed, buying it for stock at £100,000 above its upper estimate.

The sale was a coup for the Dorset auctioneers, more used to prices around the £3,000 mark.

It was also a near-miss, having been sent for sale by an unidentified Weymouth resident, and catalogued at a routine January sale as a "neoclassical marble relief carved with female nude standing beside a plinth", estimated at £200 to £300.

At the eleventh hour, during the sale, Duke withdrew the lot.

Guy Swinge, one of the company's art experts, said yesterday: "I was looking through a catalogue and spotted a very similar one by the Renaissance sculptor Mosca. It crystallized at that moment."

At Sotheby's in London, yesterday, the value of paint-

ings by Lucian Freud soared when his "Head of a Man", a small portrait of George Dyer, fetched £275,800.

The previous record for the British artist, set in July last year, was £63,800.

Dated 1966, the portrait was offered for sale by Mr H J Renton of London.

"Until 11.30 this morning, nobody knew what Freud was worth", Mr Hugues Joffe, a Sotheby's expert, said.

"One can only imagine what a full-scale work by him would fetch."

British artists performed particularly well at the sale, which achieved a record total for post-war and contemporary art of £5.6 million.

Among 11 records for individual artists a painting of Primrose Hill by Frank Auerbach fetched £137,500 (estimate up to £80,000), while Richard Hamilton's "Swinging London", a silk-screen derived from a photograph of Mick Jagger handcuffed in 1967 on a drugs charge outside Chichester court, fetched £26,400.

The top price was £616,000, paid by Stefan Hahn, the New York dealer, for an abstract sculpture by Alexander Calder, called "Could be Twins", referring to two sets of steel shapes.

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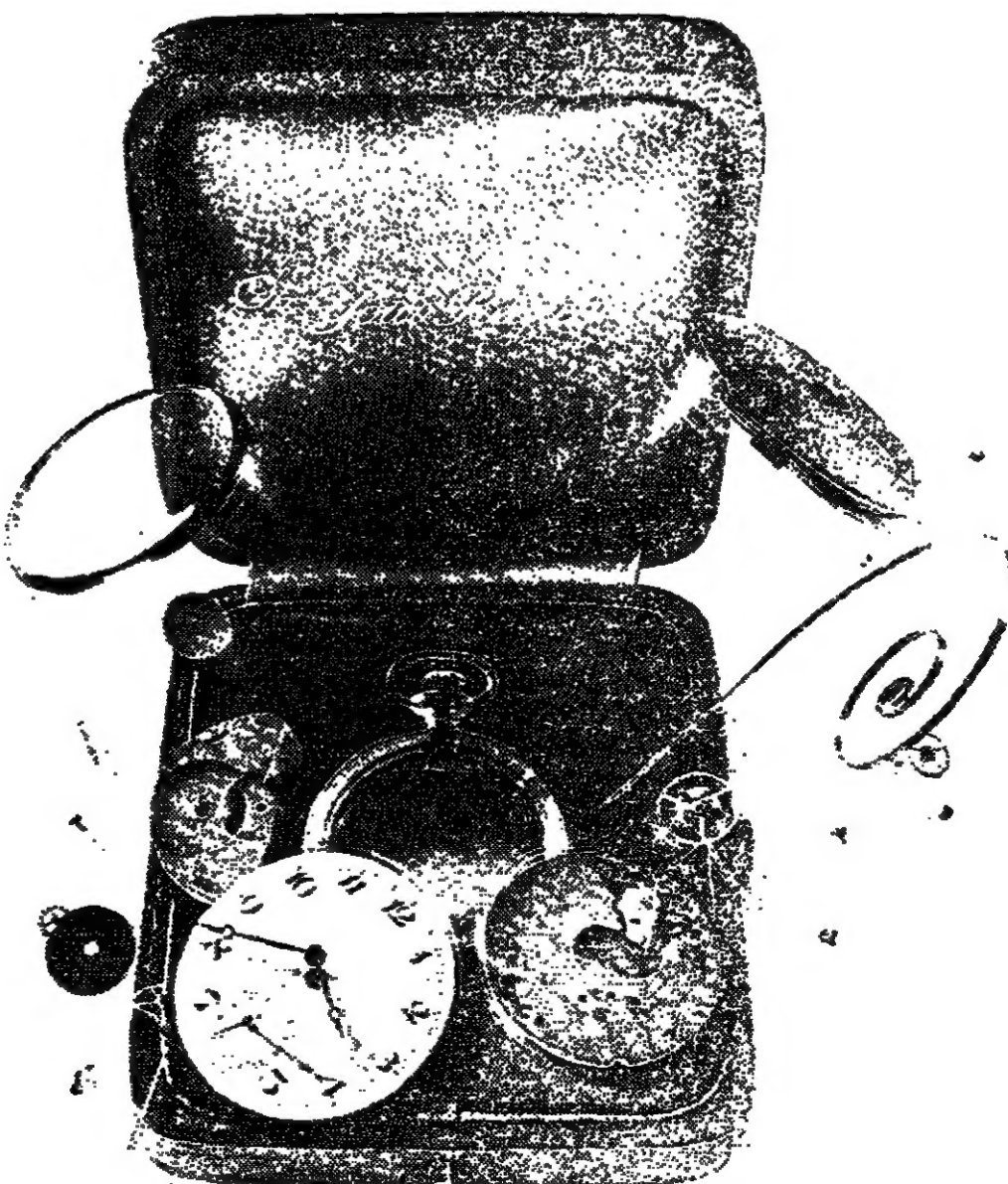
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Kremlin leaders subjected to direct complaints as Moscow party conference breaks new ground

Delegates revel in open debate with Gorbachov

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

As the Soviet Communist Party's national conference ended its third day, many of the most cherished truths about the Soviet system had been subject to open challenge. One speaker, the head of the Communist Party in Komi region in Siberia, called — in the presence of all the delegates and the Politburo — for President Gromyko and other senior officials from the Brezhnev years to step down.

Another, a steelworker from the Urals, complained that *perestroika* had failed, that there was nothing in the shop — no meat and no consumer goods. What was more, he said, people would not know who to complain to until the individual responsibilities of Politburo and Central Committee members were made public. At present, the portfolios are kept secret.

These direct and iconoclastic comments are becoming typical of exchanges at the conference, which is breaking new ground. Perhaps for the first time since the 1920s, Soviet political life is being played out almost in public. There is no live transmission, but two evening news programmes show lengthy excerpts from impassioned speeches. Principles are being questioned and individual leaders held to account by people who before would probably have hesitated to appear in their presence at all.

The second day's proceedings presented the extraordinary spectacle of one of the country's leading actors debating openly with the party General Secretary. The whole exchange, fragments of which were shown on television, was published in yesterday's papers, as were all the speeches that have been delivered so far.

Mr Mikhail Ulyanov, who is president of the recently formed Theatre Workers' Union and recently played Lenin on the Moscow stage, gave a practised and spirited

show of oratory. He spoke of the "accursed fear" which had "lodged in people's genes" since Stalin's time. This fear, he said, had rushed back when the now-infamous letter by Nina Andreyeva, the Leningrad lecturer, had been published in the national press in March.

The letter, which presented a virtually Stalinist political programme, was regarded by many as the work of people opposed to Mr Gorbachov's reforms. It aroused fear among Soviet intellectuals — fear which was only strengthened by the three weeks it took

Washington — In one of the few administration comments on changes in Moscow, Vice-President George Bush said that if Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's reforms were implemented they would "represent historic change" (Michael Binyon writes).

He told the World Affairs Council that the US was "cautiously optimistic". Much was still to be done, but in a totalitarian system talk can be revolutionary. He attributed the change in attitudes to the US military build-up.

for the press to publish a rebuttal.

When Mr Ulyanov mentioned the Andreyeva letter, he was interrupted by Mr Gorbachov from the podium. He said that the party conference had received a letter from Ms Andreyeva in which she stood by her views. Mr Ulyanov replied that the terrifying thing was not the letter, but the fear it had caused, and the fact that people regarded everything they read in the press as official pronouncements.

Mr Ulyanov's second encounter with Mr Gorbachov came during his passionate advocacy of a free press. The press, he said, was an "independent and serious force, not the tremulous handmaiden of a few party com-

rades who were used to living and ruling unchecked".

Mr Gorbachov interrupted to support Mr Ulyanov's point and call for more pluralism in the party press and greater responsibility. At this point Mr Ulyanov said: "Mikhail Sergeyevich, may I ask you a question?" "Please do," replied the General Secretary.

He then asked whether Mr Gorbachov favoured a press that never offended anyone, or whether he would accept that mistakes might be made and offence given if the role of the press was to be enhanced. Mr Gorbachov's reply was ambiguous in calling for boldness with responsibility. Mr Ulyanov agreed that the press needed to represent the interests of the people and the party — with which Mr Gorbachov hastily concurred. But the actor then added: "The press is also a weapon that can punish as well."

The economy was a subject dealt with controversially by Mr Leonid Abalkin, an academic. But even his much-challenged view that *perestroika* had made no difference to the underlying trend in the Soviet economy and his call for a "completely new system" were less startling than his questioning of the one-party system.

The depth of his criticism only became apparent with the publication of the full text of his speech yesterday.

"The chief question is," he said, "whether we can organize society democratically and at the same time keep the organization of society by... the one-party system. Yes or no? And if yes, how can we do it?" If the Soviet Union intended to keep this system and the principles and organizations that went with it, he continued, there would have to be guarantees of the broadest possible expression of opinions.

He concluded: "Only when



Mr Boris Yeltsin, former mayor of Moscow, making a point to a conference delegate and playwright, Mr Mikhail Shatrov.

there is a choice between alternatives will the leadership be fulfilling its function as the leadership of society. If there is no choice, its only function is to correct projects which have been prepared by the apparatus. That is inevitable."

Such sentiments may have been voiced before by a Communist Party member who has the ear of the top Soviet leaders, but never at a forum where the Soviet public could read it in their newspapers.

What the party conference has done, in a way that no previous Soviet Communist Party gathering has done, is to bring the nature and role of

the Communist Party and its ruling bodies under public scrutiny. A foretaste of what was to come was provided by a selection of readers' letters — published in *Pravda* under the headline, What I Would Say if I Was a Delegate — on the opening day of the conference.

A Mr V. Nikitin, a teacher from Kaliningrad, said that most of the misfortunes facing the country and the party could be traced to the lack of any definition of the position of the party in the Soviet Constitution. It was hard to reconcile, he said, the assertion that all power in the Soviet Union belonged to the

people, with the recognition that the party is the leading and directing force of society. Indeed, it defied simple logic.

He went on: "The party decides who can join, it takes the most important decisions for society as a whole, and assesses its own performance at plenums, conferences and congresses... Is it any wonder that it takes so long for society to get to know about the 20 years of stagnation (the Brezhnev years), or half a century to find out about Stalin's terror and its scale?"

Mr N. Timoshenko, an engineer from Sverdlovsk asked how anyone could know

whether *perestroika* was having any impact on the Central Committee when they knew so little about the upper reaches of the party.

He complained that the Central Committee was still exempt from *glasnost*. "We do not know what standing bodies the central committee has, we do not know anything about its structure, how many people work there, how its work is organized, the principles according to which its cadres are selected and trained, their conditions of work, or the services they are provided with. We do not know the first thing about the

Politburo or the Central Committee secretariat — for instance, what they do, what each individual member is responsible for. Sometimes we know more about American senators and congressmen than we do about our own leaders."

Mr A. Russo, from Kishinev in Moldavia said he supported *perestroika*, but was concerned that the pruning of the administrative apparatus would jeopardize his future and that of his family. A relatively junior official in his forties, he said: "I understand the need for cuts in the bureaucracy. I know about it before, but I did not have the slightest inkling of the situation three or four years ago before *perestroika*. I certainly could not have foreseen the course of events at the beginning of my career."

He went on: "Since then, many years have passed. And all that time — or so they told me, and I believed them — I did a useful and necessary job. I showed initiative, obtained the required results, grew into the job, and gained authority and respect. But I was a product, as I now understand, of the time of stagnation. Have all my achievements been worth nothing?... So it seems."

● MOSCOW: Prosecutors have completed a bribery investigation against Mr Yuri Churbanov, a son-in-law of Leonid Brezhnev, the late Soviet leader, it was reported yesterday. It was indicated that his case would go to trial soon (Reuter reports).

Mr Churbanov, a former senior government official, who is charged with systematic bribe-taking, will be tried by the Supreme Court, *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said, along with five former police chiefs from Uzbekistan, as well as the Central Asian republic's former interior minister and two deputies. The report indicated that all are accused of paying Mr Churbanov bribes.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Italians agree to accept F16s base

Rome (Reuter) — The Italian Parliament yesterday voted to accept the transfer of American F16 fighter-bombers from Spain by 1991, despite fierce opposition from the Communists and other left-wing parties.

A motion presented by the five-party coalition was approved after a two-day debate by 298 votes to 196, with 24 abstentions. The Foreign Minister, Signor Giulio Andreotti, rejected opposition claims that the relocation to Italy would harm superpower relations. Washington was forced to agree to move the 72 planes from the Torrejón base after a wrangle with Madrid about reducing its military presence.

● BONN: Herr Werner Hoyer, a defence expert in the Free Democratic Party, yesterday called for the immediate grounding of F16s stationed in West Germany after two separate crashes involving three of the US Air Force planes.

Mugabe releases 75

Harare — President Mugabe has ordered the release of 75 members of the security forces and of the vigilante-style youth wing of the ruling Zanu (PF) party convicted of atrocities and human rights abuses (Jan Raath writes).

A government spokesman confirmed yesterday that an order for a "special category of amnesty" had been issued. It was reported without attribution by Bulawayo's *Chronicle* newspaper yesterday, a month after a six-week amnesty for guerrillas in the Matabeleland bush ended with 114 giving themselves up. It is understood that after the amnesty Mr Mugabe was lobbied by senior officers of the armed forces and of the Zanu (PF) executive, arguing that the guerrillas' freedom required a *quid pro quo* for convicted members of the security forces and the youth wing. Legal sources say the 75 "must account for nearly all" government or party members convicted of atrocities in Matabeleland.

Death penalty review

Washington — The Supreme Court yesterday agreed to consider banning the death penalty for all juvenile murderers, a day after issuing a decision that could end capital punishment for killers who committed their crimes under the age of 16 (Michael Binyon writes).

The court said it would decide next year whether the death penalty for children violated the constitutional ban on "cruel and unusual punishment". Thirty people who committed crimes when under 18 are on death row and nine states allow the execution of children as young as 14. On Wednesday the court voted to overturn the death sentences of three juvenile murderers, including Paula Cooper, for whom the Pope had appealed for clemency.

White House drugs

Washington — The White House yesterday said it would begin mandatory random drug tests on its staff within 60 days after three Secret Service guards and two secretaries at the National Security Council were relieved of their duties and face possible arrest after an investigation into cocaine use at the White House (Michael Binyon writes).

The three guards are on paid leave and the two secretaries have been dismissed. President Reagan was told that there were no breaches of security.

Torture acquittals

Cairo (Reuter) — An Egyptian court yesterday acquitted 44 policemen accused of torturing detained Muslim fundamentalists after the 1981 assassination of President Sadat. The officers, ranging from a corporal to a lieutenant-general, had been charged with torturing defendants during the mass trial, which lasted two years, of members of the outlawed Jihad group. The policemen were accused of flogging them and burning them with cigarettes to force confessions. The Cairo Criminal Court said it had 130 reasons for acquitting the officers, including what it said was a lack of evidence.

Britain takes over

Royal Navy warships begin their first joint patrols in the Gulf today with Dutch and Belgian minesweepers, as Britain takes the presidency of the Western European Union (Nicholas Beeston writes). Whitehall sources said yesterday that Britain had four main goals during its one-year presidency of the seven-member defence grouping: boosting co-operation in logistics and training; strengthening the WEU as a pillar in the broader Western alliance; building on its joint operations such as in the Gulf; and opening the way for Spain and Portugal to join.

Romania warns Hungary of sterner measures

From Richard Bassett

Debrecen, Hungary

Sending up clouds of dust, the three diplomatic lorries, flanked by motorcycle outriders, sluggishly made their way to Debrecen.

Loaded with the books, furniture and diplomatic dining service of Hungary's ill-fated consulate in Cluj in north-east Romania, it was an unusual convoy. Farmers watched its progress carefully, aware that it marked the rude shutting of Hungary's window on Transylvania, the cradle of Magyar culture where more than a million ethnic Hungarians have lived since the region was ceded to Romania after the First World War.

With the lorries came consular staff. Among the seven full-time consuls, drivers and secretaries with their families, there was little sign of the hastily preparations which had accompanied Romania's 48-hour ultimatum to close the consulate.

The move, without precedent in diplomatic relations between Warsaw Pact states,

was accompanied yesterday by reports that the Romanians had also insisted that Hungary close its cultural centre in Bucharest. The decision has infuriated the Hungarians, but both the former Cluj Consul, Mr Domokos Vekas, and his Vice-Consul, Mr Emil Popovics, displayed only imperceptible calm.

Mr Vekas, who spent more than five years in Cluj and completed his high school education there, clearly felt that he had been cut off from his roots. "This is a move which cannot help either party. None of us is happy at being forced to leave," a consular colleague said.

The Romanian decision has been justified as suitable retaliation for what it considers the Hungarians' official tolerance of an anti-Romanian demonstration by tens of thousands in front of the Romanian Embassy in Budapest on Monday. The demonstration was a protest against plans by the Romanian leader, President Ceausescu, to raze hundreds of villages in

Transylvania, which is seen by Hungarians as a deliberate attempt at cultural genocide.

Yesterday, the entire region between Debrecen and the Romanian frontier was seething with rumour. Hungarians who were in Cluj earlier this



Mr Groz: Told Parliament he wants improved relations. He said that military service for students at the university had been stepped up.

The mood of the population in Cluj is said to be tense, with the majority of the citizens, Romanian as well as Hungar-

ian, nervous that the deterioration in relations may lead to military confrontation.

Mr Karoly Groz, Hungary's leader, was at pains to point out that Hungary would do its best to restore relations with Romania. "Do not think that temporary differences are necessarily permanent," he said after the Hungarian Parliament had debated the Transylvania question.

Nearer the frontier the mood is less optimistic. "There is bound to be a provocation sooner or later," a young Magyar man living near Cluj said yesterday. "No one believes that this will go on indefinitely. Everyone is waiting for something."

Hungarians in Debrecen reacted in anger at the closure of the consulate. "You see what happens when we try to demonstrate peacefully," said a student who, at Monday's demonstration, had waved a banner comparing Mr Ceausescu with Hitler.

Mr Ceausescu, as if aware that there may be a recurrence of Monday's demonstration

outside his embassy, reiterated that he was prepared to close the Romanian Embassy in Budapest and if necessary completely break off ties with Hungary.

Accompanying these heated exchanges, regulations on the Romanian side of the frontier came into force this week, tightening up security within 10 miles of the border. Anyone found straying off the main roads without proof that they are resident in the area will be presumed to be leaving Romania illegally.

Romanian television broadcast the news earlier this week that two villages near Bucharest had been demolished in accordance with Mr Ceausescu's plans. According to sources recently in Cluj, the next villages chosen for demolition are in Transylvania and are the first whose population is made up of Hungarians.

The inhabitants of one of the villages, Luna-de-Sus, are determined that they will not leave their homes even when the bulldozers arrive.

In ironic counterpoint to

the Communist Party conference in Moscow, with its vision of a new socialist order, the crisis between Hungary and Romania is an example of how *glasnost* can threaten the traditional but fragile stability of Eastern Europe.

So far, the storm cloud over Mr Gorbachov's horizon is no bigger than a man's hand. But history has shown that in the Balkans, such clouds gather rapidly and it is a foolish man who ignores their warning.

● BELGRADE: Mr Stipe, a hard-liner from Croatia, has been elected Yugoslav's Communist Party president (AP reports). Mr Stipe, long considered the party ideologist, won by an unspecified margin from another Croatian, Mr Ivica Racan, a reformist.

During a recent party conference in Slovenia, Yugoslavia's most liberal republic, Mr Stipe was openly called the party's "greatest dogmatist". He is believed to be an ally of Mr Slobodan Milosevic, president of the hard-line leadership in Serbia.

Party vote puts Begin family on course for a comeback

From Ian Murray

Jerusalem

The fiery oratory of the Begin family is certain to be heard in the Knesset after the general election in November after the party's outspoken Ambassador to the United Nations and brother of the man who died leading the Entebbe rescue operation 12 years ago. The family is revered in Israel because of this connection, and the former ambassador, who is American-educated, is a certain vote winner.

A close runner-up was Mr Moshe Katsav, another of the party's young guard, a city Knesset member who has already won distinction as Labour Minister.

After the three young ones

and respect for his ability to make rousing speeches.

The first place went to another young lion of the party, Mr Binyamin Netanyahu, until recently Israel's outspoken Ambassador to the United Nations and brother of the man who died leading the Entebbe rescue operation 12 years ago. The family is revered in Israel because of this connection, and the former ambassador, who is American-educated, is a certain vote winner.

A close runner-up was Mr Moshe Katsav, another of the party's young guard, a city Knesset member who has already won distinction as Labour Minister.

After the three young ones

came three members of the established leadership. First was Mr Moshe Arens, who is the choice of Mr Yitzhak Shamir as his successor as party leader. Next came Mr

Jerusalem — A 101-page appeal against the conviction and death sentence in April on John Demjanjuk for the war crimes of "Ivan the Terrible", the mass executioner of Treblinka, was accepted by the High Court here yesterday (Ian Murray writes). His lawyer argued there was a lack of proof, and no evidence to contradict Demjanjuk's claim that he was never in Treblinka.

Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister at the time of the Lebanon war. He narrowly beat Mr David Levy, the Housing Minister and spokesman for the many poor Oriental Jews who support the party.

This order was particularly

good for Mr Sharon, who has trailed Mr Levy in popularity for some time. It indicates that he is poised to make a serious challenge for the leadership when Mr Shamir decides to

step down. The party's other Cabinet ministers all won places among the 35, as did most of the city members, although voters will find 15 new faces on the list.

The final order of the list will be decided next Wednesday, when the top places will

be given to the old guard, with the popular young recruits given lower but realistic places. The Herut list will be integrated with the Liberals' list for the election to form one for the Likud faction. Mr Shamir will automatically be first on the list.

● Missile deal: Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Defence Minister, yesterday ended a week-long visit to the United States after signing a deal meant to curb the growing threat to security from the missile arsenal in Arab countries.

The deal means that the US will pay 80 per cent of the \$130 million (£76 million) cost of Israel's development of the Arrow anti tactical ballistic

missile, which is designed to intercept ground-to-ground missiles.

There is added urgency here for completion of the programme after reports that Syria wants to buy accurate M9 ground-to-ground missiles from China.

These missiles could hit virtually any target in Israel from Syrian territory. Defence planners here are particularly concerned that they could be used to launch chemical warheads.

Mr Rabin gave a warning last week that the best defence against this kind of weapon was attack, and that Israel would strike back "sevenfold" against any country that used them.

Crippled US television looks to Britain for a happy ending

From Charles Bremner

New York

American viewers may soon be watching far more British television if Hollywood and New York script-writers keep up a strike that has turned into one of the most damaging stoppages in the American entertainment industry and is now threatening the future of the main broadcasting networks.

On Wednesday, Mr Brandon Tartikoff, the head of entertainment for NBC, the most successful network, said the dispute, now in its 17th week, had precipitated a crisis and he threatened a series of moves to limit the damage.

Among these is a plan to buy programmes from Britain and Canada. The big three networks — ABC, CBS and NBC — show virtually no British material. The BBC and the

independent British networks have had their drama and comedy hits on the much less powerful public television channels and local stations.

Mr Tartikoff warned in his stern statement, aimed at both the writers and the production companies which employ them, that the strike could shape the fortunes of the big networks.

The corporations are already locked in a struggle to keep their audiences and advertising from the encroachment of cable television, better local stations and other video entertainment.

For weeks, television audiences have been treated to weary repeats of popular situation comedies and police dramas. The companies have brought non-union labour in to write the daytime soap operas, presumably on the principle

that amateurs could handle the wooden dialogue, pregnant pauses and meaningful glances as well as the professionals. Writers have also been working under union-approved contracts to keep up the joke flow on certain popular talk shows, such as Johnny Carson's.

But if the strike runs for another two weeks the networks may have to cancel their next season of new shows, the vital autumn period when the ratings make or break the companies' balance sheets.

Last week, the Writers' Guild voted to reject a "final offer" from the producers, setting the scene for weeks of deadlock. The producers now say they will not even take telephone calls from the Guild. About 1,000 dissident writers are campaigning to go back to work, accusing their colleagues of waging what amounts to a political cam-

paign that threatens the whole industry.

In the feature film business the crunch has been slower in coming because of its less urgent thirst for scripts. But the big studios are beginning to feel the pinch. Filming is being delayed and even completed scripts require writers for revisions during shooting.

The writers have not endeared themselves to the general thousand lesser Hollywood workers who have been laid off. These include wardrobe workers, electricians, make-up artists, and electricians. The writers, they suspect, are busy at home with their word processors stacking up on scripts for the end of the strike.

The big studios, such as Twentieth Century Fox in Beverly Hills and Universal Studios in Hollywood, are acquiring the feel of ghost towns. Universal closed its canteen last

week because so few people are working. The economic effects are being felt by the Los Angeles restaurant business and the car dealers, who are getting used to repossessing the Mercedes and Porsches of new poor writers.

Beyond the bitterness, the experts see the strike as a symptom of Hollywood's explosion of costs. The producers are finding that it is harder to pass on the burden of high fees and salaries to the television market.

The big shows are now "deficit financed", which means that the production companies only make profits on a series after it has run for three years and moved into syndication with independent stations, or is sold abroad.

The two sticking points in the strike involve fees for programmes in syndication and foreign royalties.

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Impatience proves a stumbling block on Roh road to reform

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

The path to democracy in South Korea may be paved with good intentions, but it remains strewn with petrol bombs, allegations of corruption and bitter memories of a massacre.

A year after hastening the end of authoritarian rule with a declaration of liberal reforms, President Roh is finding it impossible to implement them to everyone's liking.

Mr Roh summed up his dilemma in a policy speech this week marking the first anniversary of his reform movement. "It is saddening that unrestrained public demands, that cannot be met in one fell swoop, are erupting as the process of democratization goes on."

"Impatience to resolve immediately problems that have accumulated over a long period is spreading throughout society."

Appealing for patience and restraint, he expressed concern about recurring civil unrest. "Movements to topple our treasured free democratic system by violent revolution have emerged," he said.

With the Seoul Olympics fast approaching, Mr Roh's

most pressing task is to quell unruly students who refuse to recognize his election to office. In this he is aided by growing public disenchantment with the students, once the vanguard of the revolution against authoritarian rule. Most people are fed up with the violent antics of a small minority of idealists and hot-heads. Thus a widely-publicized demonstration for reunification talks with North Korea in early June failed to attract popular support, even from within the student body itself.

Last week a mob of students shot themselves in the foot by ransacking the office of the president of the prestigious Seoul National University. The mindless attack was universally deplored, even in opposition circles.

So far Mr Roh has wisely refrained from clamping a lid on dissent, opting to offer moderate concessions. His latest suggestion this week was to organize a soccer match between students from South and North Korea.

The idea is regarded by his critics as a trial balloon which will eventually disappear, but it served to remind the stu-

dents who is in charge. They may expect a further and more salutary reminder soon. Evidently encouraged by antipathy towards the petrol bomb brigade, Mr Roh pledged in his anniversary address to "resolutely deal with those overstepping the boundaries of the law".

Of more serious concern to the former army general are demands from opposition parties, which dominate the National Assembly, for inquiries into the conduct of the previous regime in which he served as Minister for Home Affairs. At the top of the list is the suppression of a revolt in the southern city of Kwangju in 1980, in which martial law troops shot dead at least 200 people. Equally controversial are allegations of corruption by former President Chun and his family.

The Opposition, led by the Mr Kim Dae Jung, has been using its new-found political muscle to force parliamentary debates on both issues. In his anniversary speech, Mr Kim said that unless both affairs were cleared up promptly, political stability and the Olympics were at risk.

Hanoi pulls out Cambodia command



Lieutenant-General Le Ngoc Hien, left, shaking hands with General Koy Buntha, his Cambodian counterpart, before the Vietnamese military commanders left Phnom Penh.

Phnom Penh (Reuters) — The high command of Vietnam's Army in Cambodia went home yesterday, a big step by Hanoi in winding down its nine-year occupation of its neighbour.

Lieutenant-General Le Ngoc Hien and about 300 members of his Cambodian command boarded Vietnamese planes and helicopters at Pochentong airport and departed for south Vietnam, witnesses said.

Vietnam says it will withdraw half of its approximately 100,000 troops in Cambodia this year and the remainder by the end of 1990. Command of the remaining Vietnamese soldiers now passes officially to the Cambodian military.

The departure of Vietnam's high command is likely to be seen as a demonstration of Vietnam's confidence in the ability of the pro-Hanoi Government of Mr Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, to resist the coalition of guerrilla groups.

Vietnam sent 200,000 troops into Cambodia in 1979 to topple the four-year-old rule of the Khmer Rouge, which is still the most effective fighting force in the three-party coalition headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot was blamed for the deaths of up to a million Cambodians. Vietnam and the Phnom Penh Government have insisted that any peace settlement should guarantee that the Khmer Rouge does not return to power.

A senior Vietnamese official said this week that the guerril-

las were in no position to topple the Government without outside aid. Many Vietnamese units were no longer necessary, such as artillery, anti-aircraft and tank units, and had been or would be pulled out, he said.

Vietnamese civilian advisers would be removed by the end of the year although some experts would be sent back to the country on temporary assignments, the official said.

The main weakness of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla campaign was its lack of support because of the party's violent history in power, he said.

Mr Hun Sen said on Wednesday that about a quarter of the 50,000 Vietnamese troops due to leave the country this year had already left. He said that he would meet Mr Rafie Uddin Ahmed, the United Nations envoy who was due to arrive in the Cambodian capital late yesterday.

The pace of diplomatic efforts to end the conflict has quickened and Indonesia is trying to arrange a peace conference involving all parties later this month.

Churchmen defy Pretoria and call for boycott

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South African church leaders, in their most clear-cut act of civil disobedience, yesterday openly defied the state of emergency regulations by calling on all Christians in the country to boycott the October 26 elections to segregated municipal councils.

Declaring that "the truth cannot be bound by unjust laws", 26 church leaders, representing 16 different denominations, urged their fellow Christians to refuse to take part in the elections either as candidates or as voters.

"By involving themselves in the elections, Christians would be participating in their oppression or the oppression of others," the churchmen said, adding their voice to that of the outlawed ANC, which has already said it intends to disrupt the election campaign.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, head of the Anglican Church

Johannesburg (AP) — At least 13 whites and one black were injured yesterday when a bomb exploded in a Pretoria shopping arcade that also houses the Air Force headquarters and the Prisons Department, police said. Two of the whites were children.

The blast was the latest in a series of attacks, which police have blamed on the outlawed African National Congress, aimed at civilians.

in southern Africa, heads the multiracial list of signatories to the boycott appeal, which is also supported, among others, by the Baptist, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, and sections of the Dutch Reformed Church set up to minister to blacks and mixed-race Coloureds.

In a joint statement the churchmen said that, as newspapers here would be prohibited from publishing their appeal under the state of emergency, they intended to disseminate it through church newsletters and news agencies and by word of mouth in defiance of the law.

They were calling for the boycott, they said, because no elections could be fair and free under the emergency and because "the structures of the constitutional system in South Africa are based on racial and ethnic identity".

The decision to call for a

boycott, which is a direct violation of the emergency censorship regulations and punishable by a maximum prison term of 10 years, was taken in closed session by delegates at the annual conference of the South African Council of Churches.

The Council of Churches, and the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, which has observer status in the council and shares its political views, have a following of 10-23 million, 80 per cent of them black. This is about a third of the population of South Africa.

Dr Frank Chikane, the general secretary of the Council of Churches, foreshadowed the boycott call when he opened the council's conference last Monday night, declaring that the time had come to move decisively from "passive condemnation of the system to active opposition to it".

Over the past year the churches have found themselves thrust more and more into the fore of the struggle against apartheid as the Government has tightened the screw of repression and censorship, culminating last February in the effective banning of 17 leading extra-parliamentary organizations.

Five days after the issue of the restriction order, Archbishop Tutu led a group of 150 clergymen of all races and faiths who tried to march to Parliament to present a petition of protest to President Botha. Police with water cannon broke up the procession.

The churches are the only significant multiracial institutions here in which blacks have been elected to positions of leadership and where a form of democratic majority rule operates. A further worsening of church-state relations can only be to Pretoria's disadvantage, but if it allows the emergency regulations to be flouted it runs the risk of inviting more violations and taunts of weakness from the far-right Conservative Party.

If Pretoria can persuade a respectable number of blacks to turn out at the polling booths, it will have successfully relaunched the government-sponsored system of black township councils.



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IRA guns ruling

Brussels — A Belgian lawyer has been given a one-year jail sentence suspended for five years for his role in running guns for the IRA in 1983 (Jonathan Braude writes). Robert Versteegh, aged 51, was convicted on an appeal by the public prosecutor after a lower court had ruled his case was not proven. French police found the guns at Le Havre harbour.

Poll tension

Port Moresby (AP) — Papua New Guinea tribesmen supporting rival candidates in provincial elections fought with bows and arrows and 10 were admitted to hospital with serious injuries.

Landslide toll

Ankara — Ten more bodies were recovered from a coffee house in Turkey's north-eastern village of Canak as the death toll from last week's landslide continued to rise.

Seal virus

Stockholm (Reuters) — Hundreds of dead and dying seals stricken by a mysterious virus are being washed ashore on Sweden's west coast.

Defiant births

Peking (AFP) — China estimates that one million children were born in defiance of a one child per family policy and that they are without papers needed to get an education, jobs and rations.

Iranian vote

Nicosia (Reuters) — The Iranian Prime Minister, Mr Mir-Hossein Mousavi, won a vote of confidence from the new Parliament by 204-8, the Iran news agency reported.

Suspect killed

Delhi (AFP) — Maoist rebels beheaded a suspected police informer in Andhra Pradesh and hung the severed head on a statue of Mahatma Gandhi.

Coalition wrangles cloud Kohl's image

From Richard Owen, Bonn

West Germans, like other Europeans, enjoy success. National attention is gripped by the Wimbledon fortunes of Boris Becker and Steffi Graf. On a deeper level, West Germany's image in the EEC and NATO is rising high, and will be further enhanced today by the arrival in Brussels of Herr Manfred Wörner, the former Defence Minister, as NATO Secretary-General in succession to Lord Carrington.

Yet Chancellor Helmut Kohl returned to Bonn from the EEC summit in Hanover to find that, whatever his standing abroad, his position at home is less secure, not least because of the increasing fragility of his coalition.

Herr Kohl, *Die Zeit* said, is unpredictable and a poor communicator. "Not only is he deficient at explaining what he does, sometimes he seems not even to want to bother." And *Stern*, more bluntly, said: "Kohl has lost his instinct for what pleases or impresses the public, and he dismisses criticism. His impetuosity in taking voters for fools is breathtaking."

Herr Kohl certainly presided over a successful EEC summit, and was congratulated for his EEC presidency. Herr Martin Bangemann, the former Economics Minister, failed in his bid to become President of the European Commission. But he is to be given a senior post in Brussels by way of compensation.

Bonn's successful campaign

to focus EEC energies on monetary union means West Germany will play a central role in the 1992 single market process. Equally, the arrival in Brussels of Herr Wörner is seen as symbolizing West Germany's crucial role in the Western Alliance.

Herr Wörner, like Lord Carrington, is widely respected in NATO. Some officials here think he may prove more irascible and less diplomatic than Lord Carrington and there are lingering doubts about his judgement. But European leaders are reassured by Herr Wörner's

insistence on strong Western defences, and they believe his backing for nuclear modernization will help to defuse tensions over the updating of short-range nuclear missiles deployed in West Germany.

There is no disguising that, despite its favourable international image, West Germany is rent by internal division, with the Christian Democrat-Free Democrat coalition under growing strain.

The key issue is Herr Kohl's much vaunted tax reform, which comes to a final vote in the Bundestag (Upper House) next week. Because of dissen-

ted down, yet they remain controversial. This has damaged the standing of Herr Gerhard Schröder, the Finance Minister, who was once seen as a potential Chancellor but whose future is in doubt.

"The coalition is suffering a haemorrhage," one observer said. With Herr Bangemann and Herr Wörner in Brussels, and other ministers faltering, Herr Kohl is under pressure to consolidate the Government through an autumn reshuffle.

Some even believe the coalition is past saving. Hanover revealed an open split between Herr Kohl and Herr Hans-

Frankfurt (Reuters) — Saatchi and Saatchi, whose advertising helped put the Conservative Party in power, has been hired by West Germany's ruling Christian Democrats. The firm's West German subsidiary, Saatchi and Saatchi GmbH, said it was handling the 1989 local election campaign for the Frankfurt section of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's right-wing party.

Dietrich Geuscher, the Foreign Minister and a leading Free Democrat, over West Germany's concept of monetary union.

There is no move yet for the Free Democrats to abandon Herr Kohl and revert to their former coalition with the Social Democrats. But the Social Democrats were boosted by their victory in the regional election in Schleswig-Holstein in May, and are likely to display growing confidence at their party congress in August.

The likely successor to Herr Bangemann as leader of the Free Democrats, Count Otto Lambsdorff, launched a wide-

ranging critique of the coalition's economic record yesterday. As if to back him up, four of West Germany's leading economics institutes issued a report forecasting low growth next year — 1.25 per cent compared with 2 per cent this year — with higher inflation and unemployment.

Herr Kohl emerged last month from his party congress at Wiesbaden with his authority intact. But he was also — as one party source put it — "given warning" that the party is unhappy about coalition wrangling and that his reelection as party leader next year before the 1990 general election is "not automatic".

To add to his troubles, Herr Kohl was also threatened by the Greens with a court case over his alleged role in a scandal involving the sale of West German submarines to South Africa in breach of a United Nations embargo.

His immediate concern, however, is to placate regional Prime Ministers from his own party, who threatened to overturn the tax reforms unless Bonn pays more for social security handouts, a burden largely borne by the regions.

The leader of the regional revolt is Herr Ernst Albrecht, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony. Herr Albrecht was the host in Hanover but he made clear to Herr Kohl that sharing the summit glory did not in any way mean that Herr Kohl's domestic difficulties had gone away.



Herr Kohl enjoying a break from his worries when he played football yesterday at a children's party in the Chancellery.

Greece at helm of the EEC it loved to hate

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The ruling Greek Socialists are putting on their best European faces as their country assumes the rotating presidency of the EEC today for the second half of the year.

It is a far cry from those early days of 1981 when Socialist campaign slogans would damn the "community of monopolies" to the same eternal fire as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation or even from the first Greek presidency in 1983 when European ministers, outraged by Greek sermons in Third World jargon, would storm out of sessions.

Several billion European Currency Units later, all this has changed. As Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, put it at a recent gathering of worried Greek businessmen: "For Greece, the answer is Europe."

It took Mr Papandreu's Socialists seven years of painful improvisations in the economy and foreign affairs to come to grips with reality. They now know that without the Community's support, their fragile economy would not have survived the mismanagement, corruption and investors' distrust.

Above all, full Community membership has given Greece the power to block Turkey's accession, offering Mr Papandreu a unique bargaining counter when tackling problems in the Aegean and over Cyprus.

Mr Papandreu wants the Greek presidency to be uneventfully successful. Although the risks of a frontier-free European market by 1992 are high for protectionist Greece, he has vowed not to hold up the unification process.

His services promise to churn out 25 to 30 of the harmonization directives, compared to West Germany's prolific 100 out of 300 needed.

The focus, therefore, is likely to be more on the activities closer to his heart — developing the Community's foreign relations, especially with the Soviet bloc and the Arab world, or dabbling at some international peace-making. The Greek presidency's main theme, entitled "The creation of a unified social space", aims to give European unification a social dimension by concentrating on working conditions, workers' health problems, employment opportunities and sexual equality.

To show that at least on sex equality it really means business, Greece is giving the next European Commission its first woman commissioner in the person of Mrs Vaso Papandreu (no relation to the

Prime Minister) who is a leading party cadre and former minister with a Reading University PhD in economics.

Mr Papandreu does not underestimate the prestige value of the presidency 12 months before the next general election is due. He evidently regrets that Chancellor Kohl of West Germany stole the march on him with last week's Community Consensus agreement. Had it been left to Greece it might have increased his influence with the left.

He hopes to make up for it by consummating this marriage through Community agreements with Hungary and Czechoslovakia and, hopefully, the Soviet Union. Should this lead to a meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, his sagging popularity with the Greek Communists might pick up in time for the elections.

The Greek leader is fully aware how Greek susceptibilities are flattered whenever he assumes some international initiative. So we can expect him to don his peace-maker's hat to have a go at the Gulf War or the feuds in Latin America. But his gut reaction against Israel's West Bank policies halted a process that was leading to full Greek diplomatic recognition of Israel. Without that, he can hardly expect the Greek presidency to play a meaningful role in Middle East peace efforts.

The next European summit will be held early in December in Rhodes, quite appropriately in the refurbished palace of the Grand Masters of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, itself a brotherhood of noblemen from most of the European nations that are to be represented at the summit 700 years later.

It is there that Mr Papandreu must produce a satisfactory mid-term review of the unification process. Considering how poor his domestic credentials are, his critics say that perhaps he should simply ensure that, as in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "not a mouse shall disturb this hallow'd house".

For the average Greek who may wonder who will be minding the store while the Government will be running Europe, there will be a consolation prize after Tuesday: imported bananas.

These were banned by the military regime in 1972 to protect a handful of growers of a poorer, finger-sized variety on Crete. The present Government felt it could no longer appear to be flouting the rules of a Community over which it must preside with European equality, if not Germanic efficiency.

Spain's 'dirty war'

Official silence on fund to crush Eta

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

A magistrate investigating suspected official involvement in a murderous "dirty war" against Basque terrorists suffered another setback yesterday when three more police chiefs refused to answer questions about the use of secret funds.

The three high-ranking policemen, who were warned before giving testimony yesterday that they were being interrogated as suspects rather than witnesses, cited orders from the Interior Minister, Señor José Barrionuevo, as the reason for refusing to answer questions about the secret funds.

The Minister himself had refused earlier this week to reply to such questions and had informed the magistrate that he was ordering his subordinates to do the same "in the name of the Government". In his last official communication to the Interior Minister, the magistrate advised him that he may be guilty of obstructing justice in refusing to furnish the evidence requested.

If an official body which looks out for the independence and integrity of the courts, the General Council of Judiciary Authority, refrains from ruling on the conflict, legal sources said here, the magistrate could call on the Supreme Court to indict the Minister of the Interior.

"We are aware of the importance of the incidents," said a spokesman for the General Council, "but this is not the right time to make a pronouncement because we are lacking some information, including something as fundamental as the Minister's reply."

The inquiry is looking into the suspected hiring of mercenaries by a Spanish deputy police chief, Señor José Amedo, to attack exiled activists of the Basque separatist group Eta in south-west France. Señor Amedo, or

someone closely resembling him, was identified by people convicted in Portugal and France of belonging to the shadowy GAL (Anti-Eta Liberation Groups) as the man who contracted them for bombings and shootings.

A French court has asked for the police official's extradition to face charges connected with the attacks on Eta activists. Consistent "reluc-

Señor Barrionuevo: Refuses to answer questions.

tance and even refusal on the part of the Government to co-operate in the investigation has heightened suspicions, echoed regularly in newspaper leading articles, of the Socialist Government's complicity in the activities of GAL which first appeared five years ago.

In testimony on Wednesday, the Director General of Police, Señor José María Colorado, not only refused to discuss the secret funds, he also admitted that his department had not even investigated the GAL group.

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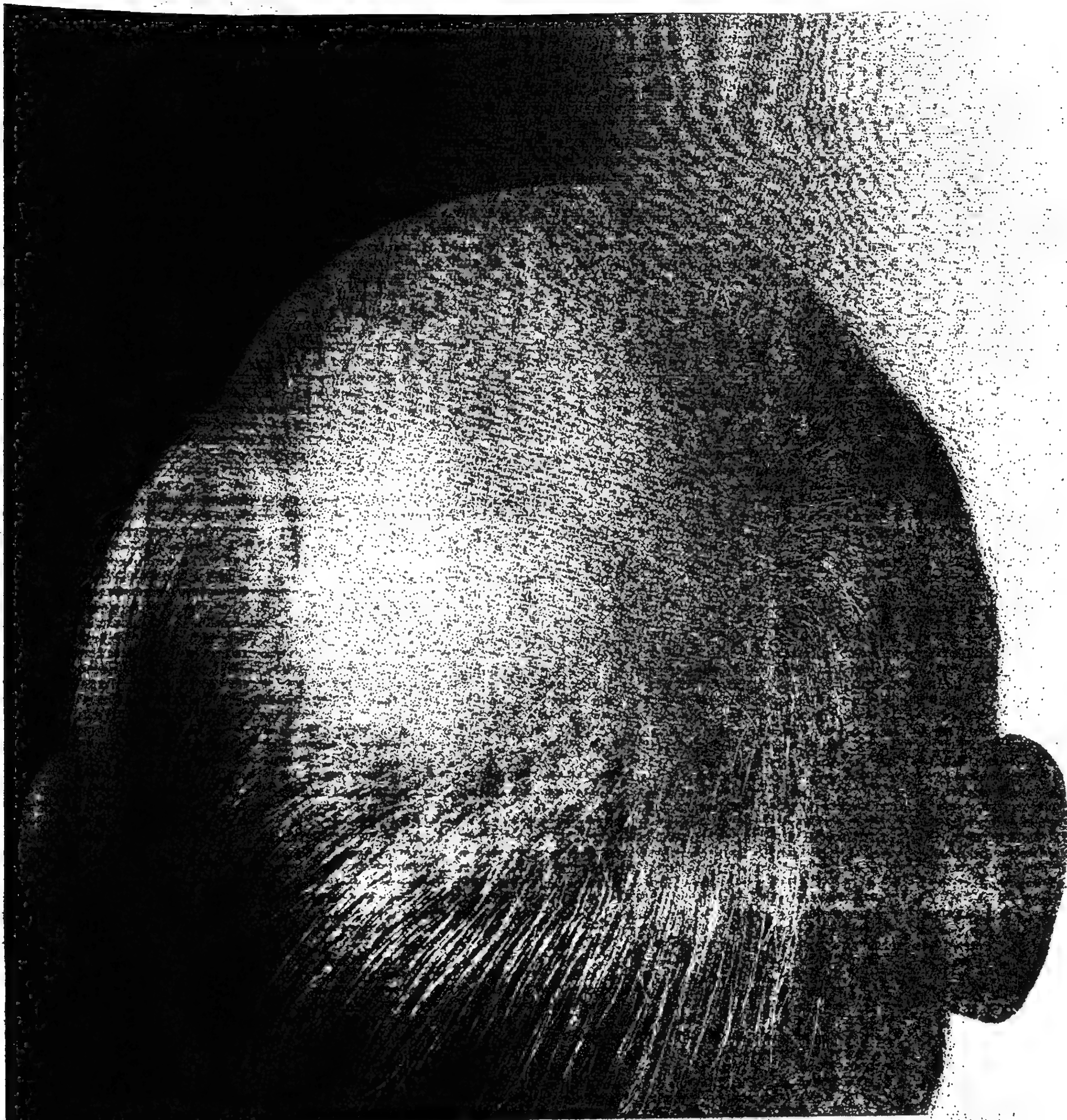
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PARLIAMENT

Single European currency 'still a long way off'

Despite the decision by the European Council in Hanover earlier this week to set up a study to consider steps towards economic and monetary union, the Prime Minister made clear that she still felt that the creation of a single European currency was a long way off.

PRIME MINISTER

sult in a reversal of her Government's policy of weakening the industrial health and safety regulations and cutting the number of health and safety inspectors?

Did that commitment mean the withdrawal of her resistance to the proposals of the president of the European Commission to change the monetary policy to foster workers' participation in decision-making?

It was well known that the Prime Minister was in conflict with her Foreign Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subjects of EMS and monetary union.

She had also said that a European central bank was not on the cards, but given that arrangements for progressively closer economic and monetary co-operation in Europe.

The outcome of the meeting had been satisfactory for the United Kingdom.

"We have confirmed that the way forward in Europe lies through the creation of wealth and jobs, as obstacles to trade and burdens on business are steadily removed. Thanks to this Government's policies, and the response of those who work in industry and commerce, British firms will be particularly well placed to take advantage of the opportunities which the single market in Europe offers."

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said he welcomed the reappointment of M Jacques Delors as president of the European Commission and he commended the view of M Delors that conditions must be attached to the development of the single market by an insistence on what he had called the social dimension.

Would the Prime Minister say whether her concept of the change towards the single market accorded with the conclusions of the European Council that the internal market must be to the benefit of all its citizens and, accordingly, that it was necessary to provide better protection for the health and safety of workers?

Would that commitment re-

Before monetary union can be achieved, other countries will have to come up to our standard 9

when it was obvious that the central banks favoured monetary union, was she not facing both ways?

Was the Prime Minister committed to monetary union, and what followed from it, by virtue of her agreement with the European Council - or did she not accept monetary union, and its consequences, in any circumstances?

Would she give an undertaking that, in any event, any report from the study group would be debated and determined upon in the House of Commons?

Mr Thatcher had given earlier undertakings about not extending value-added tax to some necessities.

Would she give an assurance that she would use the veto to stop the extension of VAT to any items which were now zero-rated?

Mrs Thatcher said that of course the single market in the EEC would benefit all its citizens, just as rising prosperity benefited them all.

The UK's regulations on health and safety at work were greatly in advance of many of the other EEC member countries which had a long way to go to catch up.

The social dimension also included a training initiative which had been agreed to in December 1986.

On worker participation, she believed that those who got on to the board of a company should do so on merit and not would not agree with the old-fashioned and out-dated approach of the Labour Party on these matters.

On the European central bank, they had said that they would take progressive steps to the realization of monetary union and set up a group to consider that.

Monetary union would be a first step and progress towards that would not necessarily involve a single currency or a European central bank. Long before European monetary union could be achieved, many other countries would have to come up to the level reached by the UK.

The UK had freedom of capital movement, which many of the others did not have. It had no exchange rate control, which most of the others did have.

It had a variety of currencies in its bank reserves, which most of the others did not have. It dealt in the Ecu, which most of the others did not. So the others had a long way to go.

Regarding the veto on zero-rating, the British Government's position had been made clear. The recent change in the law but to an explanation of the law.

The Rover and BAE matter was still under consideration.

Assuming that it went through, the subsidies from the British Government would cease, unless of course they were under regional development and that would be very much in line with what the Community would wish.

Sanctions on South Africa had not come up.



US-scale deficit 'on the cards'

If the balance of payments deficit in the second half of this year is anything like that in the first half, Britain will have an external deficit as large, in relation to its domestic product, as the American deficit had been, in relation to its domestic product.

That prediction was offered to the Prime Minister by Mr Neil Kinnock (left), Leader of the Opposition, during question time.

Mr Kinnock: For an oil-rich, exporting country like ours, it shows unique incompetence by the Government. What will she do to close these balance of payments gaps?

Mrs Thatcher: The deficit is being financed by the inflow of private sector capital, showing great confidence by other manufacturers in this country as a base for effective manufacturing operations.

Mr Kinnock: If confidence is so great and the inflow so ready, why does she inflict 9.5 per cent interest rates on British industry and home buyers?

Mrs Thatcher: To keep down pressure on inflation (Conservative cheers).

Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Rotherham, Lab): Five years ago, she was boasting with pleasure and pride about the balance of payments this country had and was warning us against the extreme damage high interest rates could do to our industrial production.

Now that we were running the highest deficit in our history and interest rates were increasing every week, did she look back over those five years and think that progress was being made in the British economic situation?

Mrs Thatcher: Enormous progress. With inflation down, growth up, the number of new jobs created considerably up and the highest standard of living we have ever known, and the best standard of social services we have ever known, progress continues apace.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central, Lab) asked if there was a level of trade deficit at which the Government would act and would introduce measures.

Mrs Thatcher: The prime objective is to keep inflation down. To let it rise would be the very worst thing one could do to the prospects of manufacturing industry. Interest rates are one of the instruments by which one keeps inflation down. Inflation is now lower than it was at any time under the last Labour Government.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C) asked her to reflect on the fact that it was not she who had a deficit of 12 points in the opinion polls. The Tories did not have a chaotic defence policy. They were retaining real prosperity to the people and they were not dependent on the block votes of trade unions.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I could not possibly put it better myself.

Jail stays the poll tax sanction

People who refuse to pay the community charge in England and Wales will still face imprisonment while those in Scotland will not.

The Government rejected pleas in the House of Lords to decriminalize non-payers and insisted that imprisonment must be kept as the ultimate sanction against those who willfully refused to pay it.

On the second day of the report stage of the Local Government Finance Bill in the Lords, a cross-party amendment to keep non-payers out of prison was defeated by 118 votes to 98 - Government majority, 20.

For the Opposition, Lord Elwyn-Jones, the former Lord Chancellor, said that in economic terms the Government's proposal made no sense and in social and moral terms it was an abomination.

The National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux and



Lord Elwyn-Jones: Proposal 'makes no sense'

the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders were strongly opposed to the Government's

proposal for retaining imprisonment. The sanction was not in the original Bill, but was added during its passage through the Commons. It was not in the Scottish legislation.

Imprisonment of non-payers of the community charge was an amendment.

About 370 people were sent to prison in England and Wales last year for non-payment of rates. It was estimated that that number would rise to 1,200 under the community charge because perfectly honest people, particularly the poor, would be liable to the charge.

Lord Harris of Greenwich (SLD), a former Home Office minister, said that the idea that the Government was cheerfully contemplating making a new category of offence was astonishing. Hundreds of people were already crammed into police cells because of overcrowding in prisons.

The Earl of Cullinstown, Minister of State for Environment, said that the penalty should be retained as the ultimate deterrent. The amendments had nothing to do with sending people to prison. They were aimed at moving the recovery procedures from the magistrates' courts to the county courts.

Magistrates already operated the rate-recovery procedure efficiently. It was simply not possible to switch them to the county courts at the drop of a hat.

The Government accepted an amendment moved by Lord Meston (SLD) to prevent councils from selling or distributing copies of their community charge registers. That would prevent mail order and other firms from having easy access to the lists.

However, the public would be able to inspect the registers.

East-West relations happier

East-West relations were now on a better footing than for many years, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, said when opening a Commons debate on foreign affairs.

A great deal depended on the effect of Mr Gorbachev's attempts to reform the Soviet Union. This week, a drama of much potential significance was being played out in Moscow.

Thanks to glasnost and the television cameras, they could follow the proceedings of the first party conference since 1941 with a good deal more insight into party workings than usual.

They could not yet know the

outcome, but the fact that there was at least the beginning of a genuine debate was immensely encouraging. They all admired the courage and determination of Mr Gorbachev in tackling the failings of Soviet society.

But they should not believe they were witnessing a transformation to genuine democracy. This was still "the beginning of the beginning", but Mr Gorbachev was pushing in the right direction.

The watchword must be vigilance because, as Mr Gorbachev knew, his reforms still had a long way to go, in the face of well entrenched opposition, and they

were as yet far from being irreversible.

Britain must also be vigilant about its own security in the face of the continuing strength of the Soviet military machine, and the guarantor of that security was Nato.

The Government had been consistent and steadfast of purpose, while Labour MPs were listening to the radio, watching television and scanning the newspapers from day to day in the hope of finding out what their own defence policy actually was - sometimes in the hope of finding out who their own defence spokesman was.

Sanctions on South Africa had not come up.

Try Heath law, Hume suggests

The Prime Minister was urged at question time to use legislation negotiated by Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, to try in Northern Ireland suspected criminals resident there rather than applying to Dublin for their extradition.

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) asked whether she was aware of the Common Law Jurisdiction Act negotiated by Mr Heath in 1974 with the Irish Government.

Why did her Government not use these facilities, which were just as effective as extradition? The same objectives as extradition?

Mrs Thatcher said that it was because having others tried in the republic was a very different proposition from what Mr Hume had said.

Northern Ireland questions Hint of police announcement

ULSTER

The Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, Sir John Hermon, might make an announcement soon in respect of recommendations made by Mr Charles Kelly into the Stalker-Sampson affair.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said at questions [Mr Kelly, Chief Constable of Staffordshire, reported on possible disciplinary action against members of the RUC].

He entirely agreed with Mr Jerry Hayes (Harlow, C), who said that Wednesday's vote [when members of the police authority voted by a majority of one to clear Sir John and two of his most senior staff of any disciplinary offence] had not helped morale in the RUC. The whole issue should be got out of the way as quickly as possible.

Mr King said that it was desirable that these matters were finally resolved and if

disciplinary charges were to be preferred that this should be dealt with. There might be announcement very soon from Sir John.

Earlier, Mr Ken Livingstone (Brent East, Lab), who said that the security forces operated outside the law undermined their legitimacy.

Would Mr King therefore investigate a statement by the RUC that it had decided never to question nor charge Mr R. Jackson, a "loyalist" paramilitary who was involved in the murder of Mr William Strathearn using a gun supplied by members of the RUC currently serving life imprisonment for their part in the crime.

For once, would Mr King not say that if he had any evidence he should give it to the authorities? This came from the RUC.

Mr King said that he would need to study Mr Livingstone's question very carefully. If Mr Livingstone had any evidence it should be submitted.

Mr Kevin McNamara, Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that he did not challenge the decision not to name the new appointments to the Northern Ireland Police Authority, but could Mr King say how many were from the minority community?

Mr King said that such information was a matter for the police authority to give. He was satisfied that they represented a good cross-section of the community with substantial representation from the minority community.

Magistrates 'will be put in fear'

Magistrates in district courts in the Irish Republic would be put in the greatest fear as a consequence of granting extradition orders against members of the IRA, Mr David Allen, SLD spokesman on Northern Ireland, said during Commons question time.

Would the Secretary of State not therefore welcome the recent decision by the Dail that such cases should be dealt with in the High Court?

He also asked whether there had been discussions with the Irish Government as to why Patrick McVeigh, the suspected IRA terrorist, had not been kept in custody once it was discovered that the necessary identification was not on hand during extradition proceedings at the Portlaoise district court?

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said

that there had been discussions with Irish ministers about the McVeigh case and it was clear that the Irish Government was greatly concerned.

During discussion in the Dail, the Minister for Justice had said that there would be an appeal against the decision of the district court.

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield Attercliffe, Lab) said that District Judge Jarlath Ruane had been ordered to ensure McVeigh's extradition not been taken?

Mr King said that that was a matter for the Attorney General, but the proceedings had not led to successful completion of the extradition application had been taken under the 1965 legislation and the interpretation given by the district judge had not been expected.

Control on food labels 'by law'

The Government may have to legislate to control manufacturers' claims about the nutritional value of certain foods, Mr Donald Thompson, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a written reply.

The Food Advisory Committee, he said, had concluded that there was need for controls and its advice would be sent to interests concerned, to seek their views on a legislative approach and on particular recommendations.

The FAC had concluded that it might be sensible for controls to be drawn up along the lines of existing claims provisions in the Food Labelling Regulations which already covered certain nutrients such as protein, polysaturateds, fatty acids, vitamins and minerals.

Terrorists are getting more weapons, King tells the House

ULSTER

Part of the following report of a Commons debate on Northern Ireland appeared in later editions yesterday.

Additional sources of weapons had come into the hands of evil men on both extremes in Northern Ireland. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said when he opened a debate on a Northern Ireland order.

He said that the additional sources of weapons had a capability well in excess of anything seen in previous years.

It was of the greatest importance that these arms shipments now believed to be in the island of Ireland should be recovered as quickly as possible.

It was the fourteenth occasion on which the draft Northern Ireland Act 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Order had been moved.

Of all the years of violence in the province, this past year had been marked by a peculiar awfulness in some of the atrocities. The terrorists had no inhibitions.

The blind hatred of the people who were willing to cause death and suffering to the children,



Mr King: Arms shipments must be recovered

Protestant and Roman Catholic, on the school bus this week beggared belief.

Beneath the balacava, we see the true and evil face of those

who seek to take power in Ireland, striving to reach their objective over the bodies of their fellow citizens and wading through the blood of grievously injured children.

The thrust of his discussions with the parties to date had been to seek methods towards devolution. Lasting agreement on devolution was difficult to achieve. It required adjustments on the part of everyone.

He continued to believe that movement towards devolution would best serve the interests of the people of Northern Ireland.

With every year of direct rule it became clearer that elected representatives of the province lacked adequate opportunity to participate in and take decisions on the future of Northern Ireland. A devolved legislative assembly would offer the people of Northern Ireland control over their local services.

His talks with the parties had confirmed that devolution was the form of government most likely to have widespread acceptance and support in the community.

It was no good political

leaders criticizing sectarianism on the streets when all too often the main political parties appeared to be trapped within its confines and were not seen to be giving any leadership in working constructively with the other tradition.

The next positive step was for the political parties to start talking about these things with the Government. With the benefit of bilateral exploratory discussions behind them, they should now be making further realistic and sustained progress. The next step was inter-party dialogue about the future arrangements for government in Northern Ireland.

Politicians in Northern Ireland had no difficulty in finding obstacles to any course of action. He urged MPs to begin the dialogue in the Commons and make constructive contribution. Instead of identifying obstacles, they should build bridges.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that the report of the Northern Ireland police authority was amazing. By a majority of one it had

concluded that it was not necessary to appoint an investigative officer to inquire further into Mr Sampson's observations, and that no disciplinary action needed to be taken. This was the most extraordinary situation. It was scarcely a unanimous vote of confidence in the three senior police officers.

That vote would not do anything to restore confidence. If the three senior officers got off without even an inquiry by a majority, it would look very unfair if strong disciplinary charges were preferred lower down the line.

If there were going to be two standards in this matter it would not be well for the general operation and support for the rule of law in Northern Ireland.

A proper judicial inquiry into the matter was needed. Britain would face widespread, sustained national and international criticism.

The Opposition had not changed its mind. The killings in Armagh and the procedures which followed would not go away but would continue to haunt the Government and undermine confidence in the

security forces and demonstrate the Government's spurious claim to adhere to the rule of law.

Labour would continue to support the Anglo-Irish agreement until there was something better, wider and more concrete. Both governments should use the intergovernmental review to encourage Unionists to come in out of the cold and have their say.

Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, C) said that for 14 years Northern Ireland had been subject to quasi-colonial rule by mainland ministers. He was disturbed, dismayed and distressed by Mr King's insistence on a devolved government as distinct from a devolved administration.

He wished the Government would not proceed with policies and aims that separated Northern Ireland from the rest of the United Kingdom.

The Government should get out of the rut of Northern Irish politics and get them into the mainstream of British politics so that left and right could replace orange and green as had happened in the mainland cities of Irish settlement.

Mr James Moynihan, leader of OUP, said that when Stormont was abolished, the Government could have governed Northern Ireland like Scotland. But Whitehall preferred to keep Northern Ireland detachable in readiness for trundling it out of the United Kingdom when the opportunity presented itself.

The monstrous combination of the Order in Council system and the Anglo-Irish agreement would continue to strangle all democratic development. Either of those monstrosities made progress and good government impossible.

He and his friends had no intention of giving any credibility to this annual phony circus beyond registering their disapproval in the lobbies.

Mr David Allen, SLD spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that the outcome of the RUC inquiry with a majority of one was the worst of all worlds. He strongly supported the call for a judicial inquiry.

He would support the renewal of the British commitment to Northern Ireland because to do anything else would be to condemn the province to even greater instability and civil war.

British hope for Thyssen pictures

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the "unique and valuable" Thyssen Collection might find a permanent home in Britain.

Speaking during question time, Mrs Thatcher said: "Certain proposals have been made. It is for the trustees of the collection to decide whether that is acceptable. A number of other countries have made proposals and it is for the trustees to make the final decision."

She had been urged by Mr Alastair Goodlad (Edisbury, C) to seek to persuade Baron Thyssen and the trustees of his art collection to consider seriously the development at Battersea.

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County Hall move rejected

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) failed to get an emergency debate on the decision by the London Residuary Body to dispose of County Hall, home of the former Greater London Council, for use as a luxury hotel.

He said that he could detect in the decision the malevolent influence of the Prime Minister, who had made clear that she required all evidence of the GLC to be removed.

Questions plan refused

A suggestion that an additional Scottish question time should be held in Scotland, made by Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross, Cromarty and Slay, SD), was rejected by Mrs Thatcher during Prime Minister's question time.

Mr Kennedy had asked her to consult the Leader of the House (Mr John Wakeham), without commitment, about holding an additional question time for Scots in the Old Royal High School, in Edinburgh.

Westland assurance

The possibility of Fiat selling its holding in Westland to United Technologies Corporation in its way affects the Ministry of Defence contracts with Westland, Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons said in reply to Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) during questions about forthcoming business.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday: Legal Aid Bill, remaining stages.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on the health service.

Wednesday: Debate on SNP motion on the political situation in Scotland.

Thursday: Debates on defence estimates.

Friday: Private members' Bills: Malicious Communications Bill and Access to Medical Records Bill, Lords amendments.

The main business in the House of Lords will be Monday and Tuesday: Local Government Finance Bill, report, third and fourth days.

Wednesday: British Steel Bill, report.

Thursday: Education Reform Bill, third reading.

Friday: Debate on reform of EEC structural funds.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on White Paper on fair employment in Northern Ireland.

Lords (11): Northern Ireland Act 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Order and Appropriation (No 2) (Northern Ireland) Order.

TIMES DIARY

MARTIN FLETCHER

A particular cause of Neil Kinnock's despondency last week was the astonishing attack by Ron Todd, head of the TGWU, in Northern Ireland. Kinnock loves and is sponsored by the TGWU and has long regarded Todd as a staunch ally. Yet here was Todd, only days after the TGWU's left-wing executive had voted to withhold support for the Kinnock/Hattersley leadership ticket, denouncing those who sought to override policy agreed by the Labour conference and to replace it with what they considered electorally acceptable simply to achieve power. Kinnock was dismayed when he read the speech in the newspapers.

I am now told, however, that Kinnock's dismay was nothing compared to Todd's, for the speech had not been intended as an attack on Kinnock at all. The true objects of Todd's wrath were Peter Shore and Denis Healey, the two leading Labour multi-lateralists who had just been publicly endorsing Kinnock's apparent abandonment of unilateralism during his now-famous television interview, and urging him to stand up to the TGWU executive. On his return from Ireland Todd went straight to Kinnock's office to try and explain. I gather he received a cool reception. Still, Kinnock must be cheered to know that his vital ally has not deserted him.

If you ever doubted the whips' power of political patronage, witness the fate of Tory MP John Butterfield's amendment to the Finance Bill on Wednesday night. Sixteen fellow Tories — mostly new boys — on the standing committee examining the Bill had signed the amendment, which called for fiscal encouragement for pensioners to raise loans on their property to generate extra income. The Government was opposed to it. All day the whips scurried round. When a Commons vote interrupted the committee's discussion at 11.30pm Mark Lennox-Boyd, one of the whips, loudly instructed his MPs to return at once. Treasury minister Norman Lamont made not a single concession, but when it came to the vote 13 of the 16 opposed the amendment which they had signed and three abstained. "A spineless show" was the verdict of one senior Tory MP who was watching the proceedings.

BARRY FANTONI



"I didn't know we had any left"

For the first time in years, Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, will not be contributing any of his distinguished watercolours to the annual Lords and Commons art exhibition which opens at Westminster next week. He has sent a note to the organizer, Labour MP Syd Bidwell, asking how he can find time to paint when the Opposition insists on wasting so much time in the Commons on his Housing Bill. Ridley did, however, find time to take Lord Young, the Trade Secretary, to his constituency association dinner in Tewkesbury last Friday. But there may have been a special reason for that. Lord Young, I'm told, was the recipient of an earlier letter from Ridley complaining angrily about the DTT's unprecedented intervention in a planning inquiry to support a proposed new town in Foxley Wood, Hampshire. There were evidently fences to be mended.

British Telecom can pull its finger out when it wants to. Especially when a contract to televise the Commons is at stake. On Monday evening its senior executives appeared before the committee of MPs charged with setting up the television experiment to put their case for being preferred to BBC and ITN. Frank Dobson, Shadow Leader of the House, seized the opportunity to complain about BT's protracted failure to mend a phone in his London flat and suggested BT should concentrate on its primary task. Early the next morning BT rang him to see how quickly it could come to repair the offending machine.

Still on Commons committees, I hear that a recent leak to this newspaper of a highly-sensitive Environment select committee report demanding government action on acid rain and air pollution has caused all sorts of ructions. Sir Hugh Rossi, the Tory chairman, has read the riot act to his committee and insisted that all 10 MPs send him a letter stating their innocence. At least one member refused point blank because he objected to being "treated like a schoolboy".

The knives are out for Lord Amphil. As head of the Lords Refreshment committee he came in for a lot of flak over the recent salmonella outbreak which laid low 50 peers. Now he is criticized by angry colleagues who sat through the night on the Education Reform Bill on Tuesday only to find that breakfast was not available anywhere in the House. So desperate were their Lordships that one, Earl Russell, son of philosopher Bertrand, missed a crucial vote because he had wandered too far afield for sustenance. However the peers' anger is misplaced. I'm told that Lord Amphil had intended to serve up bacon and eggs but was overruled by Lord "Bertie" Denham and his team of government whips.

So confident were they that the sitting would collapse in the early hours that they had sent the catering staff home without a second thought.

Twenty years ago today, in ceremonies in London, Moscow and Washington, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was signed. It came into force on March 5, 1970 and no fewer than 136 states have become parties. But it remains highly controversial.

Proliferation of nuclear weapons has proceeded far more slowly than pessimists feared — few would have dared to predict in 1968 that 20 years later there would still be only five fully paid-up and practising members of the nuclear club. That they are also the five permanent members of the UN Security Council adds a certain appearance of tidiness to the arrangement. But the challenge posed to the treaty by the states which have refused to join means that there is no room for complacency.

These challenges all involve states locked in regional conflicts — most notably in the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent. There is no doubt that Israel has nuclear weapons (but it has apparently not felt it prudent to test or flaunt them). India conducted its underground "peaceful nuclear explosion" on May 19, 1974. In addition there are many "threshold" countries,

such as Pakistan, South Africa, Chile and Brazil, which have not become parties.

So far these countries have all preferred to develop an ambiguous nuclear status to an open one, but there will undoubtedly be further nuclear proliferation. This does not mean that the treaty has failed completely, or that we should not try to keep it in force.

Like all treaties, the NPT represented a deal. Crudely summarized, the nuclear-weapon states undertook not to transfer nuclear weapons to any other recipient, while the non-nuclear-weapon states undertook neither to receive nor make them. A system of safeguards was established whereby the International Atomic Energy Agency could verify that the non-nuclear states were complying with the treaty. To soften these terms, the treaty upheld "the inalienable right of

the parties" to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Moreover, all the parties undertook "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament."

To many, these arrangements were and remain illogical and hypocritical. The spectacle of the three principal nuclear powers working together to prevent other countries acquiring nuclear weapons was compared to alcoholics preaching abstinence. Unlike the Test Ban Treaty, it seemed to require more restraint from the non-nuclear states than from the nuclear ones.

The new nuclear powers of the 1960s, France and China, refused to subscribe to such a conspiracy of the "haves" against the "have-nots". However, in practice they have

generally acted as if they were parties to the treaty.

Some nuclear powers, especially the US and Britain, praised the beneficial effects of deterrence so highly that it was hard not to conclude that everyone should have it. This was General Pierre Gallois's conclusion. He argued in his various writings that nuclear deterrence, good for France, would be good for all other countries as well. Some states have kept out of the treaty because they disapprove of its discriminatory approach.

But the case for the treaty in 1988 has not lost its relevance in 1988. Nuclear weapons were widely seen, even by the major nuclear powers, as a highly problematical means of pursuing security. They required complex control systems with elaborate safeguards against unauthorized use or accident; they had to be deployed in such a manner as

not to tempt an adversary into a pre-emptive attack, and they had to be continuously maintained by expert staff in expensive facilities. They had taken the world close to disaster in the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, and had not eliminated the need for large conventional forces.

The US government had long been worried that nuclear proliferation among its allies would reduce its chances of being able to control international crises effectively. In addition, there was a more general sense, whose unpleasant overtones were not lost on the Third World, that it was one thing for stable, long-established and technically advanced countries to have nuclear weapons; it would be quite another thing for new states whose regimes lacked legitimacy and whose frontiers were the subject of disputes. The NPT is not just in the best

interests of a few nuclear powers wanting to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. There is the often overlooked point that non-nuclear states consider it very much in their own interests to preserve this status. Indeed, the treaty can be traced back to the initiatives of various non-nuclear states. It was at Sweden's prompting that the UN General Assembly, in 1961, asked the Secretary-General to inquire into the conditions under which the non-nuclear-weapon states might be willing to renounce the possession of such weapons.

Whatever its limits and logical defects, the NPT continues to be seen as valuable by most parties, as the three review conferences have shown. Recent super-power progress on arms control may quieten some critics.

In 1995 a decision has to be made whether to keep the treaty in force. It should and probably will survive. Too many states have an interest in non-proliferation — not because of the treaty, but because their capacities, interests and self-image do not point in the direction of rushing to acquire these weapons.

The author is Montague Burton Professor of International Relations at Oxford University.

Adam Roberts lauds a peaceful treaty of self-denial

Hypocritical—but it works

Interview: Nigel Lawson

A nation of inheritors



Life is never dull at Number 11 Downing Street. Three and a half months ago the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, was being lauded by his party and given high marks in the City for a bold and innovative Budget. Today he is under attack for a widening trade deficit which is partly ascribed to those same tax cuts he proposed in March.

In an interview with *The Times* Mr Lawson stressed the quantum leap in the performance of the British economy while yielding little to his detractors. During the nine years in which he had been associated with the Government's economic policy, he said, there had been a revival in the nation's confidence which was not necessarily captured in the figures but was quite apparent from talking to people around the country. Britain was no longer an economy in decline but was recognized both at home and overseas as a strong economy with an attractive future.

Asked if the growing trade deficit required some reining back of demand to restrain imports Mr Lawson poured scorn on the idea that the Budget tax cuts were too large or that fiscal policy should be even tighter than it already is. "With the possible exception of Japan we have the tightest fiscal policy of all the major economies. And anyhow I don't believe in budgetary fine-tuning. The purpose of budgets is to get a strong fiscal stance and then within that to try and introduce tax reforms which will bring a strong, lasting supply side benefit."

To underline the prudence of fiscal policy he forecasts, for the first time, that this year's budget surplus is likely to turn out larger than planned at the time of the Budget. The Chancellor does concede, however, that "as I've made clear the economy has been growing at an unsustainably rapid rate and needs to slow down a bit. That can be achieved without any drama." There will be no emergency mid-year package to try and rein it back. "As and when there is a need to tighten, that falls to monetary policy."

One reason why consumer demand is so strong and imports so high is that people are saving less. Higher interest rates will encourage them to save more and spend less. But in any case the Chancellor takes the figures

with a pinch of salt. "If you believe the official figures the savings ratio is very low. But we do have problems in measuring it." Although the savings ratio is lower than normal he believes it is probably higher than the 5½ per cent of income which the latest figures indicate. And he points to the paradox that "the more confident people are the less they feel the need to save."

If the economy needs to be slowed down by tightening monetary conditions what is the policy framework for doing this? Does the exchange rate play the main role or should interest rates, where necessary, be set independently of their effect on sterling?

"The exchange rate is not so much the anti-inflationary weapon itself, which is monetary policy, but a very powerful reinforcement of the main policy," says Mr Lawson. "Businessmen know that if their costs get out of hand they are not going to be bailed out by a depreciating currency, and that acts as a very desirable discipline."

Monetary policy continues to be guided by a range of indicators. The target fixed for the narrow measure of the money supply, M0, is "for real", Mr Lawson insists, and it is important that it comes back within the 1-5 per cent target range. "It may take a little time but not too long, I hope." But the tension between different indicators is now much reduced — something which must also have reduced the tension between Chancellor and Prime Minister.

The dilemma between whether to raise interest rates and allow the pound to strengthen or keep the pound stable and risk too loose a monetary policy is now largely a thing of the past. Mr Lawson sees the present situation as "an altogether healthier one. The period in which everyone was saying sterling was bound to rocket up beyond \$2 — or to DM3.27 as one of the Sunday papers was telling me not so long ago — that period was pretty short-lived. All that is forgotten now, and in the process we have been able to raise interest rates quite significantly."

As Mr Lawson has made plain in the past, notably to the International Monetary Fund meeting last September, he does not believe there is any iron law which dictates that the current

accounts of the major industrial countries should always be in balance. A deficit is of concern when it reflects some underlying malaise in the economy.

"The tightening of interest rates is not a direct response to the trade gap at all," he says. "It is a judgement that, taking all things into consideration, there needs to be some monetary tightening."

Will it work and does it in some respects hit the wrong target? Will industrialists be deterred from investment while mortgage holders, seeing their properties leaping in value, go on spending and borrowing without any bearing on that," he says.

Nor would he welcome a European Central Bank. "I know of no major European country which wishes to see the powers and responsibilities of its own central bank diminished."

But he does seek practical steps towards a more limited co-operation, with greater use made of the European Currency Unit, both as a reserve and intervention currency. He urges the German Bundesbank to hold some European currencies as well as dollars.

overdraft, coming instead from retained profits, equity issues and long-term borrowing, "for which the rates haven't moved."

Given that exchange rate stability is so important, does the Chancellor see further strides being made towards European monetary co-operation? On full British membership of the European Monetary System the position remains unchanged. "I do not think recent experience in the foreign exchange markets has any bearing on that," he says.

Nor would he welcome a European Central Bank. "I know of no major European country which wishes to see the powers and responsibilities of its own central bank diminished."

But he does seek practical steps towards a more limited co-operation, with greater use made of the European Currency Unit, both as a reserve and intervention currency. He urges the German Bundesbank to hold some European currencies as well as dollars.

If Mr Lawson has a mind to carry his tax reforms further the major changes are more likely to be on the taxation of savings than on indirect taxes. "The taxation of savings is the one area which has not been comprehensively reformed," he says. "I gave an undertaking that if there were to be a fundamental reform there would be a green paper first and that still stands."

What, finally, of the Chancellor's own future? Asked about his political objectives outside the economic sphere, Mr Lawson comes back to the question of Britain's standing in the world and to his pride in having played a part in reversing the fatalistic acceptance at the time the Tories came to office that further national decline was inevitable. "One reason I went into politics was to play a part in arresting that... Restoration of the nation's morale — morale based on achievement and not on empty rhetoric — is a major objective."

His other aim is to change society "so that we have a nation of people who genuinely feel they have a stake in the country and are entrenching that." What he wants is progress "from a property-owning democracy to a nation of inheritors so that the spread of ownership goes on widely from generation to generation."

That concern with national standing does nothing to detract from the view that Mr Lawson would like the Foreign Office if it should become vacant. But if there were a vacancy too at No 10 would that tempt him, or is there any other job in politics which appeals?

The Chancellor replied carefully that his present job has given him much satisfaction, seeing his own and his predecessor's policies carried through. And he adds: "I have no ambition to be prime minister."

But with all the talk of a beckoning life in the City does a third career appeal to this past journalist and present politician? "I don't know. I don't even know what it would be. Obviously I won't do this job for ever but at what point I should stop I don't know. Anyway, it's not entirely a matter for me."

Rodney Lord and Robin Oakley

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Straight course to where?

Neil Kinnock's speech to the National Union of Mineworkers on Wednesday was billed as being the beginning of the big fight back. It was to be the day when Arthur Scargill would get his come-uppance. It didn't exactly work out like that. Perhaps Neil changed his mind, as is his wont. Perhaps he lost his bottle at the last minute. Or perhaps he realized that he did not have a convincing and coherent alternative political philosophy to offer the assembled delegates. Whatever the reason it wasn't particularly inspiring.

Even Roy Hattersley had been more direct earlier in the week. He had at least been blunt. "We must pull ourselves together... and steer a straight course," he warned Labour Party members, or they would not win the next election. He's right, of course. But some of the more irrelevant and questioning Labour members might actually want to know what he and the better half of the leadership contest "dream ticket" have been up to for the past five years.

They might even suggest that Hattersley and his leader have had over half a decade to pull the party together and steer a straight course. Some might even be tempted to point out that the leadership itself is not entirely to be exonerated from all blame for the confusion and disarray in which the party currently finds itself. Even that is putting it charitably.

The two leaders have shown too easy a propensity to change their minds. Neither has been forceful and direct in espousing particular values and policies. You can't readily identify either with a political stance as you can Mrs Thatcher, Michael Heseltine or David Owen. All these are seen to stand for something; the former represent weakness and vacillation. Had Neil and Hattersley been more honest and open in their advocacy of the values of social democracy then it is possible that Labour would not be in its present turmoil and again indulging in an orgy of recrimination and backstabbing.

After all, what is this "straight course" that everyone is supposed to follow? It's an easy enough phrase to use. There's no difficulty about asking the troops to fall into line. Some of the poor bloody infantry who have suffered enough in the trenches laid waste by Thatcherism would be happy to oblige if only they knew what they were being drilled for, and where they were supposed to be going. But they don't. None of us do. Not only is there no settled policy but there is also no sense of direction.

Neil knows. That's for certain. The problem with him is that the height and limit of his ambition is to get into No 10. It's the personal drive that causes him to be so impatient, so authoritarian, and so ruthless with his friends. It's why the Labour

Party's policies are dispensable. The difficulty for him is that he somehow has to square this naked drive for power with an unpopular socialist ideology. It can't be done. It's when he tries to reconcile the two that he begins to look weak or shy, and usually both. This is precisely the predicament he is in with his defence policy.

The result is a kind of political schizophrenia for him and dismay and confusion for his supporters. You don't need the headlines and the capitalist press to point out the inconsistencies. There's always a comrade at hand to point it out and stir it up, to shout "betrayal". A Scargill, a Benn and a Heffer are waiting to pounce on every perceived deviation from socialist orthodoxy.

It makes life very difficult for a Labour leader trying to win power. But it has to be said that the Scargills, the Benns and the Heffers are sincere and consistent. We may detest what they stand for but there's no doubting their belief. They are specific and clear.

Neil moved fast at the NUM conference to disavow Scargill's tribute to the "spirit and courage" of Russell Shankland and Dean Hancock, sentenced to life imprisonment for killing David Wilkins during the 1985 coal strike. It was, Neil said, "disgusting". So it was. He also insisted on the priority of the review of party policy. But this belated attempt to assert his leadership

won't work. It misses the point.

It's no good at all for Neil and Hattersley to keep calling for unity. They also have to show they believe in something. The uncomfortable fact is that Scargill is not a one-man band. He speaks for a significant number in the party. His vision of socialism appeals to many. It is supported by Benn, Heffer and members of the Campaign Group of Labour MPs. It captures the imagination of activists like those who chanted "scab" at Neil in Liverpool this week. Scargill cannot be dismissed as a failed rabble rouser. If he can, there are a lot more who would also have to be discounted, and Labour hasn't exactly got a surfeit of members to play with.

Neil doesn't have much time to get it right before the next election. The best thing that he could do now would be to make a clean break and confess that the course he wants to follow is one that would take him towards social democratic welfare endorsed by most decent members of the party.

It's difficult, I know, for him to have to admit now that he and all the best in the PLP actually subscribe to principles and values that are espoused by David Owen and Shirley Williams. But there lies the future. When it comes to choosing between linking arms with them or joining hands with the likes of Scargill there's really no choice.

JULY 1 ON THIS DAY 1922

The Irish Free State made an inauspicious start as Republican objections to the terms of the agreement boiled over into fighting between the irregulars, led by "Bory" O'Connor, and troops.

RORY O'CONNOR A PRISONER

DUBLIN — At the present moment O'Connor is still holding out in the Four Courts, and the back portion of the building, in the basement of which he has taken refuge, is being slowly and methodically bombed.

North of the river, firing is fairly brisk. As I came across the river I met several armoured cars and heavy loads of Government troops, and it is clear that an attack will soon be developed upon Moran's Hotel and other buildings occupied by the irregulars round about Talbot-street. The irregulars are still in possession of a considerable number of buildings throughout the city, and the task of sweeping them clear will take some time.

1.30 PM — The fall of the Four Courts is now imminent. Soon after midday a fire broke out in the eastern wing, and large volumes of smoke were carried over the city by the strong westerly wind. A few minutes later there was a terrific explosion, which shattered all the windows, including heavy shop plate-glass windows, within a large radius. It is reported that fragments of records were flung

into the Liffey as far as three miles away.

2.30 PM — O'Connor has just asked for a truce. This was arranged during a lull in the firing, in order to permit doctors to enter the building.

4.30 PM — The Provisional Government officially announced that the irregulars in the Four Courts have hoisted the white flag and have surrendered.

The men, about 130 or 150 in number, were at first marched out of the building with their hands up under a strong military guard, and were then lined up on the quays. They were afterwards taken off on foot in the direction of Mountjoy Prison, where they will be interned pending a decision as to their fate. Many of them were mere boys.

Fighting is going on fairly briskly in the northern half of the city, and it is pretty obvious that unless their opponents surrender the Government have still a harassing task before them. The irregulars continue their policy of seizing houses in various quarters of the city, and have now occupied the Greaham Hotel. All this quarter is particularly lively today and there has been sharp firing from time to time in Parnell-square.

A British military lorry which had made its way along O'Connell-street was sniped at from an hotel in Talbot-street occupied by the irregulars. The lorry was promptly halted, and a single soldier, quietly jumping down, gave the building a burst of machine-gun fire, and cooly clambered back into the lorry. It is impossible to give a complete picture of all the isolated fighting that is going on.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

June 30: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Zoological Gardens in Edinburgh to mark the 75th Anniversary of their opening.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Scotland, Mr. John Macdonald, at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, opened the new Orientation Centre and Administrative Buildings and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Secretary of State for Scotland (The Right Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, MP, Minister in Attendance), the Countess of Argyll, the Right Hon. Sir William Nisbet, Mr. Robin Jarman, and Lieutenant-Commander Timothy Laurence, RN were in attendance.

The Earl of Stair had the honour of being received by The Queen and delivered up the Gold Stick of Office upon relinquishing his appointment as Captain-General, The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers, had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty and received The Queen's Prize.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the Garden of the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Captain Alexander Ramsay of Mar, and the Lady Salween, and the Hon. Elizabeth Ramsay of Mar were present.

The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers, under the command of the Captain-General, Colonel the Lord of Cumberlege, took part in a parade on duty.

The High Constables of the Palace of Holyroodhouse were on duty.

The Bands of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Argyshire Regiment) and the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders played selections of music.

Sir Iain Tennant, as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, had the honour of being received by The Queen this evening.

The Prince of Wales, President, Scottish Business in the Community, this morning visited the Edinburgh Venture Enterprise Trust at 30 Rutland Square, Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness, President, Scottish Business in the Community, subsequently visited the Western Hauls Employment Initiative at Western Hauls, Edinburgh.

Major Christopher Lavender was in attendance.

The Princess Royal this morning opened Broom Court,

The Princess of Wales celebrates her birthday today.

Lord and Lady Cullen of Ashbourne are overwhelmed by the kindness of their friends on the occasion of their fortieth wedding anniversary, and ask their patience for individual response.

a Margaret Blackwood Housing Association Hotel, at Bannockburn Road, Stirling.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Stirling and Falkirk (Lieutenant-Colonel James Stirling of Gordon).

The Princess Royal, Viscountess, later visited Strathcarron Hospital, Randolph Hill, Denny.

The Princess Royal, attended by the Countess of Lichfield, travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Captain Malcolm Edge, RN (Deputy Master of Trinity House) at the Memorial Service for Captain Ronald Watkin, RN which was held at St Mary's, Ballgownie, Isle of Man this afternoon.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.S. Hooper and Miss C.M. Daubeny
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Hooper, and the late Lady Hooper, and Caroline, daughter of the late Sir Peter Daubeny and of Lady Daubeny.

Mr P.G. Collier and Miss R.J. Spittle
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs G.G.H. Collier, of Shantock Lodge, Bovingdon, Hertfordshire, and Jayne, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs M.A. Spittle, of Elmbridge, Worcestershire.

Mr J.T. Davies and Miss H. Dwyer
The engagement is announced between Julian Timothy, son of Mrs Maurice Davies, of Choulet, Geneva, and Mr John Robin Davies, of Bellevue, Geneva, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Dwyer, of Alsip, Sweden.

Mr D.J. Edwards and Miss E.J. Overton
The engagement is announced between Dennis Edwards, FRCS, only son of Mr and Mrs Mansel Edwards, of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Overton, of Wood Lane House, Iwer, Buckinghamshire.

Mr M. Goode and Miss D.A. Wilkins
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs J. Goode, Thorpe Bay, Essex, and Debbie Anne, eldest daughter of the late Mr A.D. Wilkins and of Mrs B.J. Wilkins, Great Wakering, Essex.

Mr A.D. Graham and Miss J.L. Rankin
The engagement is announced between Alastair, son of Mr L.M. Graham, of Coombe Kea, Cornwall, and Mrs L.M. Graham, of Norton sub Hamdon, Somerset, and Janet, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs H.C.D. Rankin, of Carnock, Fife.

Mr M.A. Hodgson and Miss S.J. Howland
The engagement is announced between Michael Andrew, eldest son of Professor and Mrs J. Hodgson, now of Palmerston North, New Zealand, and Nicola Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J. Howland, of Fort William, Inverness-shire.

Mr J. Jezzall and Miss J.L. Hill
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Edward Stephen, youngest son of the late Captain J. Jezzall and of Mrs N. Jezzall, of Court Cottage, Kings' Station, Colchester, and Joanna Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George R. Hill, of 23, Sheffield Terrace, London, W8.

Mr R.G.L. Scovell and Miss S.J. Deany
The engagement is announced between Robert Gerald Leeds, eldest son of Mr and Mrs F.A. Scovell, of Stagdene, Hendley Down, Hampshire, and Sally Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.R. Deany, of Pool Park, St. Lucy, North Cornwall.

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Mr H.C. King and Dr J. McIntyre
The engagement is announced between Hugh Cameron, son of Mr and Mrs King, of Pickade House, Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire, and Jean, daughter of the late Rev Hamish McIntyre and of Mrs Jean McIntyre, 43 Culmoe Street, Glasgow, Renfrewshire.

Mr M.A. Landreth and Miss D.J. Turner
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs A.R. Landreth, of Highcliffe, Dorset, and Diana, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs K. Dudley-Turner, of Branksome Park, Dorset.

Mr J.E. Lewis and Miss C.J. Bealish
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr and Mrs J.R. Lewis, of Magness, France, and Christina, only daughter of Mr A.P. Bealish, of Thurstone, Devon, and Mrs H.R. Timmis, of Bath, Avon.

Mr G.A. Magness and Miss L.A. Wakefield
The engagement is announced between George, son of Mr and Mrs G.A. Magness, of Stannore, Middlesex, and Lesley, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.W. Wakefield, of Upton, West Sussex.

Surgeon Lieutenant (D) J.R. Malt, RN and Miss J.A.L. Cheeseman
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Malt, of Perth, Western Australia, and Jo-Anne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Cheeseman, of North County, Somerset.

Mr A. Ribbott and Miss D.E. Rowley
The engagement is announced between Alexander, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. Ribbott, of Cranbury, New Jersey, and Denise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D.W. Rowley, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

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OBITUARY

MARCHESA IRIS ORIGO

THE ARTS

John Russell Taylor on some more satisfying exhibitions than the Biennale to see in Venice this summer

Smaller is beautiful

Cutting coats to suit cloth is not perhaps the most inspiring programme for any artistic event, for who is going to be thrilled at the notion of playing safe? It is likely to produce, and has in the 43rd Venice Art Biennale (until September 25), results at once decent and dull.

However, for habitués of the institution, there is a lot to be said for taking a little dullness as the price of decency. The theme show, with the anodyne label "Quality and Actuality", which could mean anything or nothing, benefited from curatorial compared with the frantic overspill of two years ago.

One of the things the theme show fails to demonstrate, unfortunately, is that quality persists reliably into the immediate present: most of the new masters of the Eighties given a room each (Chia, Clemente, Lüperz, Kounellis, for instance) evince either stagnation or lack of direction in their latest work.

The shining exception is Cy Twombly, who has stopped, except in one solitary piece, scribbling inscriptions on his canvases, and instead taken to wonderfully atmospheric landscape painting, mostly in greens and whites, which at first glance renders his work unrecognizable but then confirms an extraordinary new flowering of his talent.

Of the national pavilions, again the best all-round display is the British, devoted to the sculpture of

Tony Cragg. Ideally it could do with more space around it, but the imaginative quality of the work, the excellence of the catalogue and the sensitivity of the arrangement, really radiate quality.

Cragg also is an artist who has undergone a spectacular self-renewal of late: there is one wall-piece of found plastic fragments to remind us, but most of the works included suggest an enormous widening of range both in the subject-matter and in the techniques, which include casting, modelling, carving and turning stone and wood into unexpected and wholly convincing shapes.

Strangely enough, the other single most distinguished pavilion is the Soviet. Strangely because it has nothing to do with the Biennale's slant in favour of the most up-to-the-minute in art.

Instead, the Russians present a museum-quality tribute to the memory of Aristarch Lennov (1882-1943), who, though by no means one of the most advanced artists of his era, was until glasnost one of the Great Unmentioned.

A big disappointment is the American pavilion, devoted to Jasper Johns, going back to the early Seventies and coming right up to date. Alas, it seems to show a progressive enfeeblement of the creative impulse: in the recent works there is still some elegance, but the workmanship is quite rough-and-ready.

The West German pavilion, given over to Felix Droese, is entitled "The House of Weapon-

GALLERIES

Venice Biennale/
The Art of Mexico
before Columbus
Palazzo Ducale

Federico
Zandomeneghi
Ca' Pesaro

Licini
Fondazione Bevilacqua
la Masa

lessness", curiously since the major effect is one of sledge-hammer blows and a determination to trample over our sensibilities in a series of coarse cut-outs and roughly-hewn chunks of wood.

Elsewhere, wood emerges as the most sympathetic material. Two in the Japanese pavilion who carve it - Katsura Funakoshi, who makes elaborately naturalistic painted human figures, and Shigeo Toya, who produces a forest of conventionalized trees from blocks of solid wood - are both quite fascinating.

There is also a little interesting painting around. The Yugoslav, Janez Bernik, has a finely conceived and executed series based primarily on the Crucifixion and

Deposition. The Icelandic Guarni Orn faintly resembles a Nordic John Bellamy, with his mythological images of half-human half-birds or half-fish.

How about the avant-garde? Difficult to tell how, these days, such a thing might manifest itself. Offensiveness is evident in the Brazilian pavilion, where the tent-like structures with which, apparently, Juraci Doria has been scattering the backwoods of his native land are surrounded by genuine cow-pats in such profusion that they can be approached comfortably only by those equipped with gas-masks.

There are several artists who create total environments. Claude Vialat hangs the French pavilion with colour variations of a basic shape, endlessly repeated, so that it looks like a wallpaper showroom.

Guillaume Bijl makes the Belgian pavilion look like an Ideal Homes display, c.1947, pursuing his technique of reproducing everyday scenes (an employment office, a stand in a trade fair) exactly but in slightly alien surroundings. Poul Gernes in the Danish pavilion at least is without affectations a decorator, and his painted schemes in hospitals and such would no doubt be genuinely cheerful and uplifting.

It is quite a relief to head back into Venice proper, where a number of independent delights await.

First and foremost, Mexican Art before Columbus, at the

Palazzo Ducale until September 4, is another wonderful example of the Olivetti way with mounting exhibitions. It is a display of the utmost elegance and refinement, and an immaculate selection of pre-Columbian sculpture, mostly from Mexico's Museum of Anthropology, which leaves most visitors wondering why nothing on show in the Giardini has even a fraction of the same conviction and effortless mastery of form.

At the Ca' Pesaro until August 21 is a totally charming retrospective of Federico Zandomeneghi (1841-1917). Italian in Paris and close friend of Degas, he obviously loved the eternal female in all shapes and forms, and had a peculiar mastery of touch in the delicate and feathery pastels, to such an extent that many even of his oil paintings look from a short distance like pastels.

At the Palazzo Grassi the blockbuster tentatively devoted to The Phenacians continues until the end of September, and the Galleria della Fondazione Bevilacqua la Masa has until August 18 a well-deserved retrospective of Lúcia, a sort of Italian cross between Miró and Klee.

His work, delightful but unmistakably minor, is relentlessly aggrandized in a succession of catalogue essays on the iconology and semiology of his work, as though Italian art historians have collectively lost altogether their sense of proportion.



Tony Cragg's work "Policeman" fails to hold a viewer at the Biennale

Plagued by food

THEATRE

Greek
Wyndham's

Eight years after its fringe premiere, Steven Berkoff's cockney Oedipus returns in style, with a West End revival and as the libretto of Mark-Anthony Turnage's opera at the Munich Biennale (reviewed last Saturday by Hilary Finch).

According to your cultural loyalties, you could describe this piece as an exercise in mythic trans-

DONALD COOPER



Master sketcher: Steven Berkoff

gression (as recommended by Grotowski), or as the act of a graffiti-spraying vandal. Either way, Berkoff would probably agree. If he has put the skids under Sophocles with on-stage violence and an unstoppable avalanche of four-letter words, he draws the

line at the real Sophoclean atrocity. After all he has gone through, Eddy decides that incest is by no means the worst thing in the world; so, instead of putting his eyes out, he heads back home to carry on as a flourishing café proprietor with a rapturous sex-life.

This strikes me as an entirely sensible decision, and a promising subject for comedy, which in part Berkoff's production supplies. Sad to say, the piece also has a message for Britain.

We are in the grip of a plague: as evidenced by child abuse, abortion, and the poor quality of restaurant food. Berkoff shows an obsessive interest in food: it is appropriate that his runaway hero strikes it rich by taking over a fly-blown café and banishing greasy chips and cardboard pies in favour of sausages containing real meat. It is here, though, that the myth gets into a twist. First Berkoff identifies the café as Eddy's kingdom; then we discover that, notwithstanding the greatly improved sausages, the plague is continuing unabated in the surrounding streets.

As a fable, Greek nose-dives into incoherence; and its text, impressively fertile in cockney Shakespearean catalogues of disgust and horror, turns to mush whenever it attempts the expression of love.

Berkoff's production, as ever, is as scrupulously disciplined as a karate display, with beautifully organized pantomimes of bleary commuters and pub rowdies. Georgia Brown makes a lovely meal of the text.

But Berkoff remains the only pantomime artist on stage. Whatever he presents, from a panting rat to a snoring coffee dispenser, is as the sketch of a master draughtsman. Energetically as Bruce Payne and Gillian Eaton accompany him, they remain actors and nothing more.

Irving Wardle



Zest, vigour and ripe voiced effectiveness: Claudio Desderi (Falstaff), Felicity Palmer (Mistress Quickly)

Intimate musical feast

OPERA

Falstaff
Glyndebourne

the shadowy outlines of a Don Quixote, but in this production he is also very definitely Don Juan. The prayer books carried by the ladies and Doctor Caius gain their point in the final scene when they are thrust scoldingly at Falstaff while semi-naked devils with pitchforks leap over him.

However, the moral is not heavily made, and the main stabilization of the comedy comes from a seriousness about the underlying emotions. In this regard the scene where Alice and Meg read their letters is particularly good: they are neither of them quite sure how genuinely the other is touched, nor indeed how much they feel themselves, but then twice, after a mounting earnestness, the situation tumbles over into laughter, exactly as the music would have it.

Not only does this interpretation seem to follow naturally from the score (like so much that Hall does), it also becomes reasonable when this Falstaff is not altogether an impossible proposition as a lover. As Claudio Desderi told John Higgins here on Tuesday, he had given the role a rest for a while before this production, and perhaps because of that he is able to return to it with infinite zest and vigour: he obviously so much enjoys himself, as any Falstaff must. He also reveals how very lyrical

a part this is, and again it is the scale of the auditorium that makes possible the performance where so much, particularly in the first scene, is delivered on the gentlest breath, helping to bring out the nature of Falstaff as Quixote. But this is not at the expense of his aspect as Don Juan: Desderi thoroughly relishes the sexual appetite of the man and makes his advances seem a real threat. Of such a one, Ford might well be jealous.

His jealousy is also more than justified by the gloriously-sung and laughing performance of Yvonne Kenny as his wife, a major achievement, as is Anne Howell's luscious and characterful Mistress Page, while Felicity Palmer is an effective, ripe-voiced Mistress Quickly. Given also a bright Nanetta, from Eva Lind, the quartet of ladies is superbly accomplished and witty.

But this is altogether an excellent cast. Robert McFarland could perhaps manage more variety of tone in his stern Ford, and possibly there were a few too many moments of unsupported head voice in the young Gianluca Sorrentino's attractively sung Fenton, but these were mere details.

The important thing - and it owes a lot to the confidence, clarity and not least the coolness of Hall's conducting, not forcing the hilarity - is that Glyndebourne has a magically alive production, which does justice to the feelings preserved and overturned in the turmoil of good humour.

Paul Griffiths

Richard Morrison meets Michael Finnissey, composer featured in the Almeida Festival

Certain doubt

It is apt that Paris should have heard Michael Finnissey's first opera before London. The 43-year-old composer writes music which, at its best, is both nakedly emotional and intensely complex, and he is not the first English composer to find these qualities more widely appreciated on the Continent than here.

This summer, however, Finnissey is at large in London. The opera, *The Undivine Comedy*, is at the Almeida Theatre (which commissioned it) on Sunday, as the centrepiece in a mini-festival of Finnissey, which includes him playing his own explosive piano pieces as no one else can. And at the Proms his new orchestral piece, *Red Earth*, receives its first performance.

The eclectic Finnissey is as likely to gain inspiration from aboriginal culture as from early 19th-century Polish literature. *The Undivine Comedy* is based on the surreal *Me-Boska Komedia*, by Zygmunt Krasiński.

Finnissey took a year simply to fashion it into a libretto, compressing his large cast into an opera for just five singers and nine players, and adding quotations from Hölderlin and the Marquis de Sade for good measure. "A Polish scholar would probably say I've done violence to the original. But it is a salon play, rather like Byron's *Manfred*, so the staging directions are rather wild."

The opera portrays two central figures: an aristocratic poet, egotistically interested only in his own artistic impulses; and a revolutionary leader, equally narrow in vision. Intriguingly, the same woman singer, called The Muse, acts as a kind of sidekick to both men.

"She represents their capacity to succeed, although both get overtaken by their own personal vanities, so they don't succeed."

The work seems deeply pessimistic about revolutions. "That is partly explained by Krasiński's own background," says Finnissey. "His father, a Polish aristocrat, fought in Napoleon's army, then deserted and joined the Tsar's army. That put him in trouble with the Poles."

"So I think Krasiński became very disillusioned with militarism and republicanism. Being an ardent Catholic yet also a typical, melancholic, Slavonic thinker, very despairing and nihilistic, he

painted the revolution in a bad light.

"But the opera is not completely without hope. I try to tie together the poet's faith, which is religious, to the revolutionary leader's faith - a grassroots socialism - so that eventually they both represent human aspiration."

The piece also clearly examines artistic self-doubt. Was this a factor in Finnissey's choosing it? "It was in fact my first motive. It made all manner of echoes, and I thought I could compose it from the heart."

Finnissey says the musical language is "predominantly quite tranquil and lyrical, to give the characters time to elucidate their ideas, though there are moments of expressionistic violence."



Pleasure from symbols: Finnissey

"My earlier pieces were short but highly concentrated. Now I am being asked for longer pieces, this density of information would actually be counter-productive to the audience's comprehension."

Some aspects the audience is not expected to comprehend. Finnissey is a great practitioner of the "encoded message".

"The opera has any number of musical symbols which, if one got to know it well, one could disentangle. That's part of my pleasure in writing the work, and they add a certain richness, a density."

"People may only see the surface of a piece, but seeing the surface and knowing there's something underneath is, I think, more satisfying than seeing a surface and knowing this is all there is."

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Our principle objections

TELEVISION

Great Britain is a civilized country, argued Jean Paul Kaufman, the Frenchman recently released from captivity in Beirut, and if the British authorities knew of the conditions under which the hostages were held they would undoubtedly act to free them.

This Week (ITV) offered a report that left Britain in little doubt as to the ordeal which the hostages have endured for months if not years, but also gave small comfort to their friends and family. It seems that the supporters of Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Brian Keenan are likely to remain the only Britons whose concept of civilization extends to acting to ensure the hostages' release.

In this brief half hour the producer, Lorraine Heggessey, presented all the new information which Kaufman's release has made available to the Western

media. The programme began with a dramatic reconstruction of the hostages' lifestyle: they were shown half naked and chained together in a small, windowless, concrete cell, with a few books for entertainment and rice and beans to eat.

They have no privacy whatever. There were no allegations of torture, physical or psychological, but the method of moving the men from one hiding place to another was brutal.

Each hostage was wrapped, mummy-like, in packing tape with only a tiny breathing hole left clear. Each was then crammed into a metal coffin under a van for a journey which might last twelve hours.

Reza Raad, a doctor of Lebanese descent who took part in the French negotiations to free Kaufman, gave his analysis of the power balance in Beirut. It was, he said, like a case with three keys: Syria, the Lebanese pro-Iranian Hezbollah, and Iran. The most important of these was Iran.

The French had negotiated on all three fronts and concluded a deal which involved the repayment of an old debt, the release of an Iranian terrorist, and a timetable for the restoration of diplomatic relations between France and Iran. Sir Anthony Parsons, the former British ambassador in Tehran, spoke for civilized Britain. The Iranians, he said loftily, had invented bazaar bargaining and there was no need for Britain to descend to this level.

Celia Brayfield

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THE TIMES

FRIDAY PAGE

Is child care 'the thalidomide of the 1980s'?

I remember my mother, the day that we met
A thing I shall never entirely forget:
And I toy with the fancy that, young as I am
I should know her again if we met in a tram.
G.K. Chesterton: *Songs of Education*.

Copies of two reports landed on my desk with a thump this week. One of them said that mothers are sacrificing half their lifetime's potential earnings by having children. The second said that fathers must take greater responsibility for child care. Taken together, these two sum up what is blowing in the progressive winds of the Commission of the European Community: namely, that women will not be free until there are full and comprehensive child care facilities to look after their children from infancy on; that these facilities are best when administered by the state rather than the marketplace or private child-care; and that the time has come to "persuade" the fathers of our land to change their role in child-rearing. With some boldness, it seems, the Commission is getting ready to harmonize not only weights, measures and tariffs among EEC members, but also values, attitudes and the New European Father and Mother.

Behind all this lie some truths as well

as half truths. The impulse to rearrange gender roles and restructure the family does not quite come out of thin air or the malevolent ambitions of some social scientists. The fact is that in our new post-technological society the traditional divisions of labour between men and women no longer make perfect economic sense, or any other perfect sense. The old system in which women reared children, and men provided for them was a natural construct, and not some arbitrary plot against females, as the feminists mistakenly believe. Similarly, it would be a mistake today to think that the changes being advocated now are simply the arbitrary whims of some people who have got a bee in their bonnet.

All the same, certain questions immediately arise. The ability to put children in day care from a child's early months probably serves the interests of parents very well, but is it in the interests of the children? There are very few longitudinal studies on the effects of taking babies and young children out of the home and placing them in the care of strangers. There are some American studies which suggest this results in difficulties in bonding with natural mothers. Does this matter? I don't know. One study suggested that children taken away from the maternal environment become more aggressive and prone to arguments. If this were true, would it matter? Again, I don't know, but one

feels that perhaps these aspects ought to be at least be investigated.

Curiously enough, they are not discussed in either of the two reports issued this week. The report of Peter Moss, co-ordinator of the European Community's Child Care Network, and that of Bronwen Cohen of the British Equal Opportunities Commission writing for the European Commission, make recommendations galore for the setting up of structures to monitor, enforce and select child care institutions, but they are unconcerned about the need to research the effects of child care on our children. It brought to mind the rather dire warning of one American social scientist who muttered to me darkly that "child care is the thalidomide of the 1980s".

British child care advocates are worried. "Child care has been shown to be beneficial," Bronwen Cohen told me confidently, and drew my attention to a 1987 study. In fact, I was familiar with this study and not at all clear what relevance it had to the question. As it happened, Peter Moss agreed with me: "That study doesn't tell you very much."



BARBARA AMIEL

he said. Still, he, like Cohen, had no concern about the American studies. "The American context is weird," he said dismissively. "You can't generalize from one country to another." Neither Cohen nor Moss had any hesitation in citing American studies in favour of child care, although the studies mentioned were of deprived children only. I could hear the ominous buzz of boomer bees.

Speaking as an amateur, my own guess is that children are most damaged from a feeling of being different from other children. Assuming that day care facilities are run competently, it seems to me that once institutional care is the norm, this particular form of harm would be limited. At the same time, human beings seem to have developed a bond between offspring and immediate family from our earliest days which is species-specific to the human race. Whether children are in some way wired to this, and how being raised outside a family will affect them, is surely one of those imponderables that will require very careful study to answer. I suppose in the end, what disturbs me

the most about reports such as those of Cohen and Moss is the general hubris behind their approach. There is such an arrogant certainty that their assumptions about non-scientific matters like attitudes and values are correct, and need no further study or justification. Moss is all ready to have the European Commission write a Good Practice Guide for Fathers. "Men cannot be forced to change," he writes reassuringly, but the role of fathers "needs to be on political and other agendas". Sanctions, perhaps?

Using the Trojan horse of child care, Cohen and Moss clearly believe they can restructure society and attitudes. While Moss is reworking the traditional dad, Cohen wants higher priority on anti-sexism and anti-racism training for the under-fives. No doubt gender roles need to be re-examined, but in so far as the changes are necessary and sensible, society will naturally adopt them. To speak of such matters as if they were the hard sciences, and to hasten and enforce changes, seems perilously close to the spirit of totalitarianism where the social engineers of the state permeate previously inaccessible areas of citizens' lives.

"I'm aiming to give women the choice they have in Sweden," Moss explained to me. "We have no choice," counters Katerina Runsk, head of the independent Family Campaign Foundation in Stockholm. "You can't support a family

on one salary in Sweden today. If I stay home the state will give me eight crowns a day, which isn't enough for the milk for my three children. If I go to work, the state will pay for the day care and give me 300 crowns a day if I get sick." Of course, while in Sweden it may well be a government policy to make it very difficult to stay at home with the children, for ideological reasons, there is some evidence that when a significant number of women move back into the labour market, prices adjust to the double income and inflation rises.

What finally puzzles me the most about these reports is the lack of concern for the ecosystems of human beings. People go on such wonderful crusades to protect the natural habitat of every single species of insect or animal. But the same people who recoil in horror at the thought that a species may disappear from the wild, and only be hand-reared in artificial conditions, seem indifferent to the plight of the family. Our social engineers are moving unobstructed to replace the uncertainty of the jungle with the deadly certainty of the zoo.

But mother is happy in turning a crank That increases the balance at somebody's bank. And I feel satisfaction that mother is free From the sinister task of attending to me.

Season to be jolly

Hardly any dances, precious little champagne and certainly no husband hunting. So why has the list of launching debutantes become longer? Sally Brompton investigates

This evening, 17-year-old Zara Williams will attend her first ball of the Season. Clad in her brand-new strapless gown, groomed and polished to perfection, she will follow in the dance-steps of her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, taking her place among the social elite.

In the best traditions of high society, Zara is coming out. Yet her attitude to being launched upon the London social scene is very different from that of her ancestors. For one thing, she does not want to be known as a debutante. "A lot of my friends don't know what a debutante is; it has no meaning to people who aren't on the social scene."

As far as Zara is concerned, coming out is better than staying in. And, in that, she appears typical of many of her generation who have caused the Season to be reorganized around A level examinations. Despite the fact that the number of debutantes has risen since last year by 40 per cent after a steady decline since the mid-Sixties, there are still only 172 girls on the official list, almost half as many as in 1966.

Today's debutantes, unlike many of their mothers, are increasingly aware that they are among the privileged minority and, for the most part, they are given the choice to deb or not to deb. It is not uncommon for girls to turn down the opportunity to party the summer away.

The previous generation were not so worldly. As the mother of one of this year's debutantes told me: "When I came out in 1961 all my friends were doing it, so I just assumed it was something that everybody did in the same way that everybody went to church on Sundays and was

confirmed at 16. I was so cocooned that it just seemed the natural thing to do."

By contrast, her 18-year-old daughter, Candida, already has her own group of friends "with long hair and who follow bands". Candida regrets not being able to invite them to her coming out cocktail party "because, apparently, it's not the done thing. Somebody told me that there's supposed to be a black list and if you know people with long hair or whatever you don't get invited to anything".

Of the 200 youngsters invited to her party, Candida will know most of the girls and about 40 per cent of the boys whose names her mother got from The List. This coveted document is compiled by the *Tatler's* social editor, Peter Townend, and consists of all the mothers and daughters who have responded positively to his exclusive mail-shot enquiring whether they would like to take part in the coming Season's jollities. The fact that she will know less than half of the boys at her own party bothers Candida not at all. "I'll go up to them and say 'hello, I'm your hostess'. You can meet some interesting people that way."

Perish the thought that today's deb should be husband-hunting as happened in their grandmothers' day. These not-always-reclusive debutantes are independent-minded and career-orientated.

The majority of the dances have been replaced with cocktail parties serving white wine, Pimm's, Perrier and orange juice or, occasionally, champagne. "People just can't afford dances any more," says Jeryl Smith-Ryland, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, whose 17-year-old daughter, Petra, features on Townend's magic list. She remembers her own mother



Two generations of debutantes: Zara Williams, who will attend her first ball of the Season this evening, with her mother, Ann

Of 60 million people in Britain, 172 girls will do the Season. It's not very important, really?

dismissing cocktail parties as "parties where other people put their cigarette ash in your drink".

Mrs Smith-Ryland came out in the early 1950s when the Season was a much more glittering affair, with full-blown dances every night of the week and extravagant country house parties at weekends. In those days, the debutantes were presented to the Queen — a tradition which ended in 1958 — and went through the ritual of the Queen Charlotte's Ball, clad in white and curtsying to a gigantic cake. Ann Williams, who attended in 1960, sums it up in one word: "Dreadful. You really didn't know anybody; and white suits some people but not others. I always wanted to go back in jet black the following year."

It was the era when debutantes did nothing but party for the duration of the Season. "One got to bed with the dawn and got up in time to get dressed and go out again," Mrs Williams recalls. "You went to all four days of Ascot

and then, at the end of July, there was Goodwood and then there was Cowes." She still has the 209 invitations she received stuck in an old exercise book. Her daughter has so far been invited to 10 parties.

Cliff Richard and the Shadows played at Mrs Williams's coming out ball at the Wentworth Country Club. Zara's party to celebrate her 18th birthday and her brother's 21st, will have Juliana's discotheque and be professionally catered in a marquee in the grounds of their Surrey home.

"Petra is not at all fussed about coming out," Mrs Smith-Ryland says with a degree of surprise. "She's more fussed about other things which are more important in life, whereas we didn't go into things very deeply."

Petra, studying for her A levels and hoping to read social anthropology at univer-

sity, says: "There are 60 million people in Britain, and of them 172 girls are doing the Season. It's not very important, really. I think the whole thing is rather forced and a bit old-fashioned. I wouldn't encourage my own daughters to do it but if they wanted to I'd be very happy because it hasn't affected me at all."

The mothers insist that these days the cost of launching one's daughter can be minimal. "A lot of the girls don't like champagne anyway," I was assured. "They've had it watered down since they were children. Young people are terribly teetotal, although they do seem to smoke like chimneys."

Party frocks are as likely to come from Miss Selfridge as Chelsea Design and matching satin shoes are no longer *de rigueur*. Tickets for the official charity balls cost between £25 and £50 a head for dinner and dancing. Even the mothers appear not to drink, getting through as little as four bottles

of wine between 35 of them during a lunch of cold chicken, salad and strawberries. "A lot of people have their daily woman in an apron to help out."

The young men, usually in their early twenties, many of them something in the City, estate agents or still at university, are carefully vetted for long hair and bum-throwing tendencies before being included on The List.

Conscious that they are at a premium and crucial to the success of the Season, the young men throw the mothers into a state of refined panic by replying to their invitations at the last minute. "These young men are jolly lucky to be invited," snorted one. Even so, she admitted that "they may be a bit Hooray Henryish but it's better than breaking car windows with beer cans. A lot of the young go off the rails these days and I think we're more concerned than ever that our children should meet up with people who we know something about."

Father's days

TALKBACK

From Michael Yorke, King's Road, Arkley, Barnet, Herts

Can Lee Rodwell or any of her worthy contributors ("Does he deserve it?", June 17) offer guidance to those hapless fathers who, having made the necessary adjustments to their own professional and social lives, now find their consequently increased presence in the family home a matter of supreme indifference to their children and even than occasional irritation to their spouses?

From Mrs J.D. Shire, Frances Avenue, Maidenhead, Berks

Mike Reed ("Lessons that could be a lifesaver", June 27) suggested some very practical ways of defending yourself when driving alone, particularly at night.

To his list I would also add, always drive with all the car doors locked. I started this

routine after a bad experience some years ago when a drunk football supporter pulled open the door of a car in which I was a passenger. It was a very scary experience and, as you see, has left a lasting impression.

From Susan Richardson, Littleheath Road, Selsdon, Surrey

May I suggest that the RAC/AA could introduce a radio paging device, specifically for women travelling alone long-distance, to be used in the event of a breakdown. Then women could remain locked in the car until help comes, which should be a preferential, speedy response, possibly with police alert. I am sure that many women would readily pay the extra subscription for this service.

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Good and bad food guides

Are you sitting comfortably? If you are a parent responsible for feeding young children, then perhaps you shouldn't be.

Dr Miriam Stoppard's new paperback, published this week, provides a long list of the foods we should avoid giving our children.

They feature many of the staples of the family shopping list including: all commercial breakfast cereals, baked beans, frozen vegetables, sausages, ham, frozen fish products in batter or heavy sauces, beefburgers, sausages, white bread, white pastry, white pasta, white rice, custard powder, cheese spreads and commercially produced fruit yoghurts.

If your child has only just come off the breast, he or she should be weaned straight on to semi-skimmed milk, advises Stoppard. She also suggests

Should we really swallow all the latest advice on how to feed young children?

that: "For many babies, a favourite food is a teaspoonful of freshly-grated carrot juice, squeezed through a piece of fine muslin."

Despite the fact that children today are bigger, brighter, taller and heavier than they have ever been, there is a wave of anxiety about how we feed them.

In May the Coronary Prevention Group suggested that low-fat diets should begin at the age of two, when children should switch to semi-skimmed milk (though in fact the CPG is not going nearly as far in these suggestions as Stoppard).

Next month Thorsons will bring out a paperback by a

Welsh schoolmaster, Gwilym Roberts, entitled *Boost Your Child's Brainpower*. A couple of years ago, Roberts organized an experiment which he believes showed that vitamin increased non-verbal intelligence among 12 and 13 year olds. As a result, sales of vitamin pills soared.

But there is considerable concern among nutritionists that parents are being pressured into putting growing children on to adult-style diets. Penny Cowley, spokeswoman for the British Dietetic Association, was horrified at the thought that mothers might wean babies on to semi-skimmed milk as Stoppard suggests. She said: "When parents look at ways of reduc-

ing fat, milk should be right at the bottom of the list because of all the valuable nutrients and energy it contains."

Rosalind Lowe, who represents the Health Visitors Association, says: "The DISS, Committee on Child Nutrition, said: 'I am totally against lists of foods you should avoid — it creates a very narrow mentality. Feeding is not just about nutrition. It is about giving love and caring and the meal table should not be turned into a battleground.'"

"If I had to follow recommendations like those described in Miriam Stoppard's book, I think I would jump in the river."

Ann Kent

©Times Newspapers Ltd 1988
Feeding Your Family (Penguin, £3.95).

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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
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THEATRE
LONDON

★ **BACK WITH A VENGEANCE:** Dame Edna Everage back again joshing the possums. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2660). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15pm. Ends July 9. (D)

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT:** Simon Gray plays the fortunes of underdogs in a play about a man who is a common pursuer. Royal Exchange Theatre, Cross Street, 14-15, Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm. Sat 8.15pm. Ends July 9.

★ **EASY VIRTUE:** Attractive revival of Noel Coward's 1935 comedy about a scandalizing teenage husband's faithful country folk. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 8.10-11pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **THE GREEK:** Eminent Greek dramatist Euripides' savage version of Oedipus, set in East London. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 8.10-11pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD:** James Quinn as the white lawyer in Harper Lee's best-selling novel about growing up in Alabama. Based on the Contact Theatre. Manchester production directed by Anthony Clark. Gresham Theatre, Crooms Hill, SE10 (01-858 7753). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **ROMEO AND JULIET:** Touring black Terrence Theatre in London for three weeks. Young Vic Theatre, 66 The Cut, SE1 (01-828 6363). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **THIS ISLAND'S MINE:** Touching and ingenious play by Guy Swainston, brought back for further run. Fine Performance. Drill Hall, 18 Chertsey Street, WC1 (01-837 8270). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **TOP GUN:** A half-hour play about a man who is a top gun. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7618). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** A play about a man who is a long runner. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7618). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **WORD-WATCHING:** A play about a man who is a word-watcher. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7618). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **ZUGZWANG:** A play about a man who is a zugzwang. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7618). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **CATFOOT:** A play about a man who is a catfoot. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7618). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **EQUIVOCAL:** A play about a man who is an equivocal. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7618). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

★ **OPSMATH:** A play about a man who is an opsmath. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7618). Tue, 8.15pm. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 8.15-10.30pm. Ends July 9.

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Society painter

When Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) left Ipswich for Bath in 1759 it was a shrewd career move because he gained access to the best of society and had no serious competition. His 15 successful years in the West Country, a period which is now the subject of an exhibition commemorating the bicentenary of his death, enabled Gainsborough to perfect his art before moving to London and taking on Sir Joshua Reynolds. As the confident portrait of pleasure-seeking artist David Garrick (above) shows, during his Bath phase Gainsborough's stiff youthful style gave way to a more relaxed approach. But throughout his career Gainsborough's first love was landscape, his work in the "cure of Face Business", as he called it, being a tedious financial necessity. Besides portraits, among numerous landscapes featured in the present show is "The Harvest Wagon", which has been described as one of the greatest British pictures in any genre but which, having failed to sell, the artist exchanged for a horse when he decamped for London in 1774. Gainsborough in Bath starts today at the Holburne Museum, Great Pulteney Street, Bath (0225-66669), Monday to Saturday 11am-5pm, Sunday 2.30pm-6pm, 1st until August 14. Two additional bicentenary exhibitions are Gainsborough: The Painter at the Peter Pears Gallery, Aldeburgh (072885-2935), daily 10am-5pm, 2nd until July 3; and Gainsborough's Family at Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, Suffolk (0787-72595), Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2pm-5pm, 1st until September 18.

Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Oxford Street (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Chiswell (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Oxford Street (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Chiswell (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00.

A HANDFUL OF DUST (PG): James Wilby and Kristin Scott Thomas star in Evelyn Waugh's savage novel (116 min). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Oxford Street (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Chiswell (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00.

PLANNED TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES (PG): An advertising executive (Steve Martin) and a shower curtain salesman (John Candy) on a nightmare journey from New York to Chicago (100 min). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Oxford Street (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Chiswell (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00.

SEPTENTRION (PG): Woody Allen in a narrative, Chekhovian mood, with Mia Farrow, Denholm Elliott, Sam Waterston, Elaine Stritch and Jack Warden as friends and relatives, trying to take away their frustrations (103 min). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Oxford Street (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Chiswell (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00.

THE UNRELIABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING (PG): A story of love and political consciousness set against the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Juliette Binoche, Lena Olin (127 min). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Oxford Street (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00. Cannon Chiswell (01-839 0310). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00.

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Carson West End (01-439 4805). Progs 1.50, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00.

WALL STREET (PG): Michael Douglas won an Oscar as the immoral wheeler-dealer, Charlie Sheen co-stars as his naive protégé (126 min). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00.

WINDS OF DESIRE (PG): Wim Wenders' epic tale of two young men watching the city of Berlin (127 min). Progs 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00** *Cosplay All*.
6.30 *Edgar Kennedy in Fish*.
7.00 *Breakfast News* with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27, 8.55 Regional news and weather.
8.00 News and weather followed by *Dallas*. Bobby is called to testify against Janni at her trial (r).
8.30 *Cliffhanger* *How You Go*. Accident prevention series presented by Jimmy Saville (r).
9.00 News and weather followed by *Children Talking* (by). Gerald Harrison talks to children about love and marriage.
9.30 *Children's BBC*. Simon Parkin with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Play School*, presented by Stuart Bradley with guest Elizabeth Watts (r).
10.00 *Cricket: Third Test*. Tony Lewis introduces coverage of the morning session of the second day's play in the game in Old Trafford between England and the West Indies. Includes news and weather at 10.55 and 12.00, 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30.
1.30 *Neighbours*. Henry discovers that he is not as welcome in the neighbourhood as he had hoped; and Paul is asked some embarrassing questions in a magazine interview.
1.50 *Whitbread 88*. Harry Carpenter introduces coverage of the men's singles semifinals on the 17th day of the championships. (Coastal)
4.00 *Lifeline*. Cliff Michelson and Debbie Thewer with the latest charity news; Michael Burck appears on behalf of the PolioPlus Fund UKG (r).

BBC2

- 6.55** *Open University: Darwin and Diversity*. Ends at 7.50.
9.00 *Cosplay*.
12.55 *Cricket: Third Test*. The closing overs of the second morning's play at Old Trafford.
1.05 *Weekend Outlook*. A preview of this weekend's Open University programmes. 1.10 *Cosplay*.
1.30 *Cricket: Third Test*. Coverage of the afternoon session of the second day's play in the game at Old Trafford between England and the West Indies. The commentators are Richie Benaud and Jack Gannon who are in the commentary box from Ray Illingworth and Tom Graveney, including news and weather 2.00 and 3.00.
3.00 News, regional news and weather.
4.00 *Cricket and Tennis*. Further coverage from Old Trafford and Wimbledon. (Coastal)
5.00 *Weekend*. Guy Michelson with places to go and things to do over the weekend in the east and south-east areas (see variations for other regions' programmes).
5.30 *Gardeners' World* from Barnstable, presented by Geoff Hamilton and John Kelly. Advice on how to plan a vegetable plot to ensure a regular harvest of produce; and what to grow in outdoor pots for the patio.
6.00 *Alan Smith and Jones*. Mel and Giff with another selection of comedy sketches and a deep, meaningful conversation (r).
9.30 *The Yellow River*. Programme two of the six-part series following the route of the famous Chinese river from its source to the sea. This evening - the history of the Songpan plains, some 550 miles from the river's source.
9.55 *Sing Country*. Willie Nelson performs at the International Festival of Country Music.
10.30 *Newsnight*.
11.30 *Weather*.
11.35 *The Week in the Lords* presented by Christopher Jones.
12.00 *Cricket: Third Test*. Highlights of the second day's play. Ends at 12.40.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.50** TV news begins with *The Morning Programme* introduced by Richard Kaye; 7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Miles Morris. After Nine includes *Clairs* Flayner with advice on coping with retirement.
8.25 *Thames news*.
8.30 *Postcard*. Word association game hosted by Gordon Burns. The guests are Danny La Rue and Linda Stender. 8.55 *Santa Barbara* 10.25 News headlines.
10.30 *The Time*. A discussion on the future of children and working mothers.
11.10 *Rainbow*. Learning with puppets (r). 11.25 *Thames news* headlines.
11.30 *Johnnie*. A repeat of Sunday's programme about small craft industries in Cornwall.
12.00 *Gas Street* presented by Suzi Quatro. The guests are Andrew Sachs and Norman Vaughan.
12.30 *The Sullivan*. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s.
1.00 *News at One* with Julie Somerville. 1.30 *Thames news* headlines.
1.30 *Rescue 911*. The earthy and ethereal partners investigate a haunted house (r). 2.30 *8 to 5*. Comedy series about a clerical staff in a department store.
3.00 *Take the High Road*. Donal and Inverdale are getting on well. 3.25 *Thames news* headlines.
3.50 *Rescue 911*. The earthy and ethereal partners investigate a haunted house (r). 4.55 *News at Five*.
4.00 *Baroness*. Puppets for the young (r). 4.10 *Rob a Dub Dub* (r). 4.45 *News at Six*.
4.45 *Splash*. Nino Fretto is joined by Mark and Kathryn on a cycle ride from London to Paris. Among the people they meet on the way are a teenage French sailing champion and three young French boys helping to renovate a chalet.
5.15 *Doctor in the House*. Comedy series based on the doctor books of Richard Gordon. Starring Barry Evans and Robin Newell (r).
5.45 *News with Fiona Armstrong*.
6.00 *The 6 O'Clock Show* introduced by Michael Aspel. 6.05 *London*. Visit to St James's University Hospital, Leeds.
7.30 *Through the Keyhole*. Chris Tennant, Anna Ruskova and Nigel Dempster try to discover the identities of two proud home owners from descriptions of the places provided by Loyd Grossman. The host is David Frost. (Oracle)
8.00 *Survivor*. The Secret Lenses. (Oracle) (see Choice)
9.00 *C.A.T.S.* Eyes. Maggie and the girls help a family threatened with a spy scandal (r). (Oracle)
10.00 *News at Ten* with Alison Burnet and Alexander Stewart.
10.30 *LWT News* and weather.
10.35 *News*. The detective and his partner are having a meal in a Chinese restaurant when a group of Vietnamese enter and a gun battle ensues.
11.35 *News*. The first of a series introducing entertainers making their television debuts. Tonight's guests include bankers, the Gutter Brothers, the Chiffins, three women with a novel comedy act; Martin Sear, described as a surreal comic; and Simon Pegg, a stand-up comedian from Liverpool.
12.05am *Kojak*. Detective Daley Kojak has to field the heat.
1.00 *News*. The first of a series introducing entertainers making their television debuts. Tonight's guests include bankers, the Gutter Brothers, the Chiffins, three women with a novel comedy act; Martin Sear, described as a surreal comic; and Simon Pegg, a stand-up comedian from Liverpool.
4.00 *Baseball '88*. New York Yankees vs Cleveland. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 11.30** *Woman in View* (r). 12.00 *News*.
12.30 *Business Daily*.
1.00 *On Campus*. Magazine series for Open College learners.
2.00 *The Partridge Programme*.
2.30 *Channel 4*.
3.00 *News at Three*.
3.30 *Countdown*.
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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Triplex Lloyd doubles its results to £4.58m

Triplex Lloyd, the West Midlands engineering, building components and services group, shows more than doubled pre-tax profits of £4.58 million (£2.06 million) for the year ended March 31. The final dividend rises from 2.5p to 3.25p a share, making 4.5p (3.25p) for the year.

A divisional breakdown of pre-interest profits shows building components contributed £2.32 million, foundries £1.95 million, engineering and services £1.28 million, and steel £323,000. Continuing prospects for increased profits are excellent, the board says, adding that the "future for the company is bright". Shareholders are to be given the opportunity to receive dividends in the form of shares rather than cash. The shares were steady at 195p on results.

McAlpine in £2.4m sell-off

Alfred McAlpine is selling two timber businesses to Phoenix Timber for £2.4 million. Phoenix will retain the management of the companies. CH Smith and Charles Jones, which will operate from Stoke-on-Trent. Inter-group loans of £1.6 million will be repaid. McAlpine is to concentrate on construction, house-building and minerals.

Estate agent jumps 82%

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, the commercial estate agent, raised pre-tax profits by 82 per cent to £5.4 million for the year just ended. Turnover went up by 23 per cent to £20.8 million. Earnings per share are 12.64p against 7.42p, an increase of 70 per cent. Shareholders collect a final dividend of 3.5p making a total for the year of 5p.

TNT Pacific issue

TNT Pacific Finance is issuing a £150 million (£69.57 million) convertible Eurobond due on July 27, 1993 with an indicated coupon of 9 per cent and par pricing. The issue is guaranteed by TNT. The expected conversion premium is 15 per cent to 16 per cent. Final terms will be set by next Friday. The issue is callable at 105 per cent falling by 1 per cent per annum to par, but is not callable for five years unless the share price exceeds the conversion price by 130 per cent. The issue is available in denominations of £5,000 and £25,000 and will be listed in Luxembourg.

Broker shuts NZ office

Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the stockbroker, said in Wellington yesterday that it was leaving New Zealand as part of its decision to cut back internationally. Its Auckland-based office would close on July 31. CSV, which opened its new Zealand office last July, is the 11th broker to close there since the October crash.

Meyer update to cost £14m

Meyer International is spending £14 million on installing a computerized information system at Jewson, its chain of timber and builders' merchants, to be completed early in the next decade. Computers will be located at each Jewson branch to support VDU's and point of sale terminals. The central computer at Jewson's Norwich head office will be replaced.

\$173m sale by Bond

Bond Corporation Holdings said in Perth, Australia, that its US subsidiary, G Heileman Brewing Co., had completed the sale of its baking operation to RT Holdings, the Belgian sugar producer, for US\$173.5 million (£101.5 million). Bond had announced the sale in May but did not disclose the price, beyond saying Heileman sold both its baking and snack food operations for a price equivalent to Aus\$250 million. It then declined to name the snack food operation's buyer. Proceeds will be used to reduce the acquisition debt for Heileman, Bond said.

Dull TSB holds long-term promise

The TSB Group's achievement over the last 18 months should not be underestimated — wrenching itself away from a cosy but limited existence as a savings bank towards a riskier and more complex life as a diversified financial services company.

Inevitably, it has been difficult for the stock market to know how to treat the group. Every set of TSB results is so peppered with pro forma figures, after the latest acquisition or accounting change, that making sensible comparisons with the last lot of results is a nightmare.

This should be less of a problem from now on. Further big acquisitions are unlikely, and the TSB hopes its accounting methods have now settled into a more permanent form. This includes the somewhat suspect change to value-added accounting on the life insurance side.

Yet the TSB still fails to inspire. The 29 per cent increase in interim profits is respectable, not dramatic. It was considerably helped by profits on gilt-edged sales of some £25 million — about £10 million more than the market had expected.

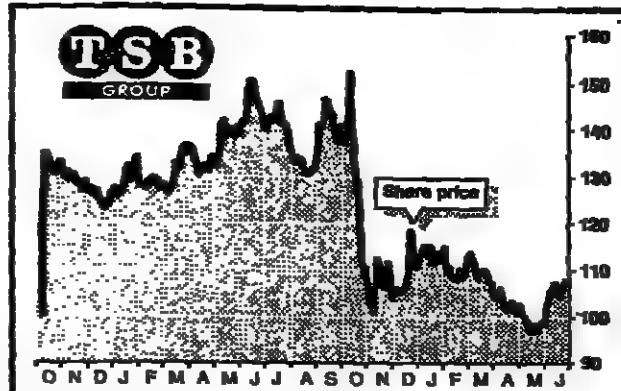
Not too surprising, then, that the share price failed to move up from the 108p opening level. With full-year profit prospects of anything

up to £450 million, and earnings per share of about 19p, the TSB is on an undemanding p/e of less than 6. It is not unattractive, but nothing to shout about.

On the other hand, there are stirrings of a TSB appreciation society emerging in the stock market, based on an assessment of long-term performance. Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers is optimistically predicting a pre-tax profit of more than £1 billion by 1992, with earnings per share growth twice that of the other clearers.

Though this kind of long-term view is alien to most of the stock market these days, it may be the right approach for a bank in such transition. It assumes, for example, that the TSB's costs will cease to rise at the annual 15 to 20 per cent rate of recent years. The current rise is mainly the result of new business development and acquisitions.

The TSB has a portfolio of attractive businesses. It paid too much for Hill Samuel, but the merchant bank has turned in a creditable performance this time and seems to be fitting well into the group. Insurance operations are also strong, while the basic branch banking business continues to move ahead at least in line with its peers. The TSB likes to say Yes — but you have to be very patient.



MS Int

Some deals, they say, are made in heaven. Simultaneously selling MS International's mining equipment division to Dobson Park Industries and dispersing Dobson Park's 28.3 per cent shareholding in MS International looks like one of them.

At a stroke, Dobson gets the part of MS it really wanted when it launched its unsuccessful bid this year, while MS gets an attractive price for what it clearly regarded as a millstone around its neck. Meanwhile, the threat that Dobson might come back for another bite at the MS cherry next March has gone.

MS's profits from mining equipment had been declining since 1986 when the contribution after interest charges and before tax peaked at £2.1 million. In the year just ended, the profit contribution had fallen to just £635,000. MS would have to be very incept indeed not to be able to improve on this just by putting its £7.6 million of net cash sale receipts on deposit.

But the cash is unlikely to remain on deposit for long. Initially, acquisitions will be in areas related to its remaining divisions, defence and electrical equipment and mechanical engineering. Since they will be made for cash, there will be an immediate impact on the earnings per share. But it is clear that MS

will not be content to stop there and will be looking to new areas to achieve its ambition of a market valuation of £100 million within five years. The analysts are looking for the group to make £4.5 million pre-tax this year, a 16 per cent increase on the year just ended. The prospective multiple is just 9.8 and the shares should enjoy a re-rating as its acquisition programme starts.

BPB

At first glance, the figures from BPB Industries were a trifle disappointing. Against the backdrop of a mild British winter and strong demand, many expected a stronger performance, hence the 5 per cent drop in the share price.

Yet exceptional factors, such as the write-down of a Zimbabwean business and the relocation of a British paper products unit, reduced profits by a couple of million pounds while a price war in The Netherlands further dented paper and packaging results.

With a March year-end, BPB was poorly placed for translating overseas earnings and suffered a £7 million reduction in pre-tax profits. This was offset by an eight-month contribution of £6.5 million from Rigips in West Germany.

Demand for plasterboard throughout Europe is well up. The British market has been especially strong and is showing no signs of abating.

Last year, British volumes were 13 per cent up and a similar increase has been experienced so far this year. Thus, with an April price increase already under its belt, BPB should continue to make good progress.

Even so, if dull commodities such as cement have seen volume rises of 16 per cent so far this year, some might consider BPB's performance pedestrian.

The competition is hotting up but the buoyancy of the market should allow everyone to make a reasonable living. Despite spending £70 million on fixed assets last year, BPB improved its balance sheet, which now contains £50 million of net cash.

The threat of competition in its primary market has eroded BPB's premium rating and, to date, there is no sign of this being recovered.

Yet, even at the lower end of the wide spectrum of 1988-89 forecasts, ranging between £205 million and £240 million, the shares are selling on a p/e ratio of only 8.6 times. There may be some scope for modest appreciation from these levels.

Swiss insider trading law takes effect today

Zurich (Reuters) — A new law making insider trading a criminal offence in Switzerland comes into effect today following the US Securities and Exchange Commission investigations into Swiss links with possible illegal dealings in American stocks.

So far this year, the SEC has asked Switzerland for assistance in investigating six cases of possible insider trading, said Mr Peter Forstmoser, a law professor who heads an independent Swiss panel that oversees the SEC requests.

In 1982 Switzerland agreed to co-operate with the SEC on investigating alleged insider trading in US stocks via Swiss banks.

This allowed American regulators to obtain Swiss legal assistance in lifting its strict bank secrecy rules to

track down alleged insider cases.

The most famous of this year's cases involves possible insider trading in Sterling Drug Inc shortly before the Swiss chemical company, F Hoffmann-La Roche & Co, launched a \$4.2 billion (£2.49 billion) hostile takeover bid on January 4.

Mr Forstmoser, who has led the campaign for making insider trading a criminal offence for more than a decade, declined to identify the other five investigations, but said they were minor, not involving well-known companies.

Mr Anton Keller, a spokesman for the Swiss Investors Protection Association, called the new law a "lex Americana" that the US had forced on Switzerland.

France's senior service

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's poor performance in training extends to service industries as well as manufacturing, according to a report out today from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

The report, based on a study of training in retailing in Britain and France, concludes that nine times the number of retailing employees have attained an equivalent training qualification in France compared with Britain.

A similar study, published this year, found that Britain lagged well behind in training engineering craftsmen and technicians, with France producing three times the number of trained fitters and electricians as Britain.

The authors of the retailing study, *Two Nations of Shopkeepers: Training for Retailing*

in France and Britain, concede that success in retailing often owes as much to personal qualities as technical qualifications.

However, they add, the breadth and high standards of retail training in France are impressive and, unlike in Britain, training there includes relevant details of individual products and how to present them.

"The reason British shop assistants so often know hardly anything about what they are selling is that no one has ever taught them," the report says.

The report criticizes British training standards in this area for their limited scope. Qualifications are said to be mainly skill-based — for example handling cheques correctly

— but exclude broader educational objectives.

"The French system regards vocational courses as a means of raising the general educational standards of many who would otherwise not benefit from any form of education after compulsory schooling, and of those who have fallen behind while at school."

"The object is to provide preparation not only for the immediate job of the trainee, but also to provide him or her with a better basis for subsequent jobs in a technologically evolving world."

The danger with training in Britain is that it will produce a "certificated semi-literate underclass," the report says, with limited flexibility and limited possibilities for progress.

P&O sets up ADR facility

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O), the big shipping-to-leisure group, announced yesterday that it had established a sponsored American Depository Receipt (ADR) facility to make overseas trading in its shares easier.

Each American Depository Receipt will represent two units of the company's deferred stock.

The American Depository Receipts will be traded on the over-the-counter market in the United States to begin with.

P&O's charter limits foreign ownership of its shares to 25 per cent, but only 4 per cent is currently in the hands of foreign owners.

"A YEAR OF NOTABLE ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS"

Richard Lay, Chairman



"This has been a most successful year for Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks. In July 1987 we became a public company and in the year to 30th April 1988 our turnover increased to £20.8 million, and our pre-tax profits rose by 82%.

Highlights have included the opening of a London Docklands office and our selection as joint letting agents on the offices within

the Canary Wharf development. We have also strengthened our national network with the acquisition of a leading West Midlands practice, now renamed Debenham Tewson Cheshire.

I believe that the Company is well placed to take advantage of the buoyant property market, itself a result of Britain's economic recovery."



Bancroft House, Paternoster Square, London EC4P 4ET.

For a copy of the 1988 Annual Report & Accounts, to be sent to all existing shareholders on 29th July 1988, please telephone 01-296 1520 or write to the Company Secretary at the address above. The advertisement has been approved for the purposes of section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. It must be stressed that the value of investments can fall as well as rise and that the past is not necessarily a guide to the future.

Steel writ delayed

By Colin Narbrough

The heads of the West German steel industry have delayed a decision on whether to start legal action against the huge subsidies paid to British Steel, and have given their lawyers more time to "fine-tune" a draft writ.

This emerged yesterday after a meeting of the steel chiefs on Wednesday which had been expected to decide whether the industry would proceed with its threatened law suit against the European Commission.

West Germany's largely private sector steel industry sees the £8.3 billion paid to BS in subsidy as a breach of Community law as it allows a de-facto and streamlined BS to compete unfairly against West German mills.

Under EEC procedure, the West Germans have until about the middle of this month to submit the writ to the European Court of Justice, after the rejection of a complaint to Brussels.

COMPANY BRIEFS

HEY & CROFT (Int)

Pre-tax: £0.35 (£0.24)m
EPS: 3.08 (2.4)p
Div: 1.5 (nil)

CHEMOXY INTNL (fin)

Pre-tax: £0.56 (£0.44)m
EPS: 18.3 (14.2)p
Div: 3.9 mkg 5.75p

STANCO (fin)

Pre-tax: £0.81 (£0.34)m
EPS: 2.70 (1.07)p
Div:

STAKS (fin)

Pre-tax: £0.23 (£0.10)m
EPS: 0.85 (0.41)p
Div: nil

SYLTONE (fin)

Pre-tax: £1.66 (£1.21)m
EPS: 26.43 (21.34)p
Div: 7.5 (6.4)p

WALKER & STAFF (fin)

Pre-tax: £3.50 (£3.63)m
EPS: 9.7 (12.0)p
Div: 2.5 (2.22p)

THROGM TRUST (fin)

Pre-tax: £4.79 (£4.00)m
EPS: 5.75 (4.65)p
Div: 4 (2.75p)

Turnover £5.50 (£4.84)m.

Product demands remain strong. New sites purchased. Planning permission for 161 units.

Turnover £7.74 (£6.72)m.

Company trading consistently well, with expectations for a successful year of growth.

Turnover £8.34 (£3.31)m.

If thought fit, the board will pay 0.4p dividend in September.

Turnover £6.89 (£4.63)m.

Current trading at existing 24 shops is good. Board expects further year of progress.

Turnover £24.73 (£22.93)m.

Manufacture of new products in Britain & US progressing well.

Turnover £8.70 (£5.89)m.

NAV 523.1 (572.8)p.

Company anticipates total dividend to be not less than that of previous year.



NatWest announces that with effect from Friday, 1st July, 1988, its Branch Standard Rate is increased from 25% to 26% p.a.

(Branch Standard Rate is charged on borrowings arising without arrangement. Any such borrowings regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974 are also varied accordingly.)

41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

HK set to impose reform on market

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government will bring in new laws to control the Stock Exchange if the Crown Colony's stockbrokers refuse to accept the recommendations of the Securities Review Committee.

The brokers are due to meet on July 20 to discuss the findings of the hard-hitting report. They will be asked to vote on a proposal to turn their powerful committee into a Stock Exchange council which will include outsiders for the first time.

But if the stockbrokers do not come up with the 75 per cent majority needed to pass the proposal, the government is prepared to use its legislative powers to clean up the exchange, which the Hay Davison report said was run like "a private club" before the stock market crash.

The government threat follows criticism of the report by the Hong Kong Stockbrokers Association, which has already issued a circular to its members suggesting they should not vote to abolish their committee.

The chairman of the association, Mr Henry Wu, said the

report was contradictory in some areas and "too idealistic".

The association does not want its powerful Stock Exchange management committee, now dominated by local Chinese stockbrokers, to be opened up to outside experts and overseas brokers, something the review committee felt was vital to restore confidence in Hong Kong as a serious financial centre.

The committee suggested the formation of a new council with 22 members: one would be the chief executive, 16 would be individual and corporate brokers, and five would be independent members, of whom at least one should be a director of a listed company and one a fund manager.

The government has decided that the new chairman of the Stock Exchange will be one of the five lay members, ideally a Chinese "elder statesman" who will instil confidence in the new council.

Mr Wu said: "We think it is unnecessary to have lay members directly involved in the council's business."

Banks 'over-exposed'

A number of banks and other financial institutions in Hong Kong were over-exposed to customers with margin accounts at the time of the October crash, said Mr Tony Nicolle, the banking commissioner.

Mr Nicolle said in his 1987 annual report that 4 per cent, or HK\$14 billion (£1.05 billion), of all loans outstanding

in Hong Kong at the end of October were to margin customers. The figures were "disturbingly large," he said.

Credit extended to stockbrokers, not including loans to margin customers, totalled HK\$10.5 billion. But Mr Nicolle said that for most institutions, the problems arising from the crash were contained within their income.

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Huntprint N/P

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	9.50%
Adam & Company	9.50%
BOCI	9.50%
Consolidated Crds	9.50%
Co-operative Bank	9.50%
C. Hoare & Co	9.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	9.50%
Lloyds Bank	9.00%
Nat Westminster	9.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.50%
TSB	9.50%
Citibank NA	9.50%

BPB reports 26% rise and plans to build new plasterboard plant

By Alexandra Jackson
BPB Industries, Britain's only domestic manufacturer of plasterboard, is planning to build a new plant at Sharpness, near Bristol.

The project will redevelop a production line from the group's plant at Robertsbridge in Sussex, and will use natural gypsum mined from BPB's mines at East Leake, Nottinghamshire. It should be operating by 1990.

The plant will increase BPB's capacity to about 200 million square metres of plasterboard a year.

Mr Brian Hogben, BPB's

finance director, said the exact cost of the plant was not yet established, although he doubted it would involve investing more than £10 million.

"We are doing this to improve our service to customers in the West Country," he said. "By using existing plant and our own gypsum we will ensure our cost base is low."

City commentators see this investment, however, as a direct response to Redland's decision to build two greenfield plasterboard plants in Britain in a joint venture with

CSR, the Australian company. One of them is also near Bristol. The private West German company, Knauf, is also building a plasterboard plant at Sittingbourne in Kent.

Both Redland and Knauf are establishing a presence in

Tempus 24

this country by importing plasterboard from Europe. Imports last year accounted for 6 per cent of a market which produced 150 million square metres of plasterboard.

Mr Robert Napier, managing director of Redland, said:

"I don't know whether this is a genuine plan or mere sabre-rattling, but we are very serious about our projects."

"Work has already started in the West Country and we are planning another plant on the east coast. We aim to be the number two in this country after BPB."

BPB reported a 26 per cent increase in pre-tax profits of £182.3 million for the year to end-March. This was below market expectations, so the shares lost 13p to 275p.

A final dividend of 5.5p makes a total of 8.5p, up 36 per cent. Earnings per share

advanced from 23.1p to 28.8p. Exchange rate losses knocked at least £7 million off profits although acquisitions added £6.5 million.

Sales advanced from £750.5 million to £869.7 million. Of this, £153.6 million came from paper and packaging activities, up from £147.8 million.

Britain and the Irish Republic are the largest operating regions with sales of £514.5 million, up from £444.8 million. The rest of Europe enjoyed growth in turnover from £199.2 million to £260.3 million.

COMMENT Savoy needs a white knight to beat THF

Today's battle of wills between Trusthouse Forte and the Savoy promises to be one of the high dramas which the City stages so well. The underlying issue is control of four hotels which are among the best in London and, therefore, the world. The outcome will be desperately close. The Savoy and its charmed circle of close supporters have clung tenaciously to a slim majority of votes over the years. One predator after another, dazzled by the group's glittering assets, has challenged the controlling interests and sooner or later retired hurt and defeated.

Passions will run high. The dismissive attitude taken by Savoy's former chairman, Sir Hugh Wontner, to all of the raiders and to Lord Forte in particular has ensured that Savoy's loyal small shareholders have an apparently unshakable belief that the unquestioned excellence of their company is doomed if control changes hands. A mere 7 per cent of the voting shares represents the balance of power.

But the event has a symbolic value only. The business before the meeting is a special resolution aimed at stopping the legal proceedings embarked upon by THF with a view to disenfranchising a key block of less than 6 per cent of the votes. But even if the meeting goes in favour of the Savoy management, the

war continues. THF has said that if it suffers a moral defeat today, the pursuit of victory through the courts will continue. Last night, the view in the City was that Savoy will scrape home. But the next twist and turns in the saga may prove even more tortuous.

THF has said it will mount a full-scale bid for the Savoy if its court actions are successful. For then the ruling group of shareholders will see their stake dip below the 50 per cent voting level for the first time. But THF has quite honourably made it clear it is not interested in paying the current feverishly high market price of Savoy's shares. Mr Rocco Forte has even guaranteed that THF would make a general offer to all shareholders should he acquire control through market purchases. Those undertakings have been given in such unequivocal terms that the Takeover Panel would have no option but to enforce them.

THF's holding, more than 42 per cent of the votes, rules out any third-party intervention — unless as a white knight with the support of Savoy's ruling concert party. Even after the dust settles on today's events, Savoy's best chance of seeing off THF is an agreed sale to some as yet unnamed third party. There will be no shortage of volunteers.

Double-figure yields near

One base-rate rise a week is a controlled tightening of monetary policy, two would smack of panic. So get ready for another dose of controlled tightening, to take base rates up to 10 per cent, next week.

The latest piece of news to percolate through to the markets is that M0, the Chancellor's favoured monetary aggregate, is about to leap far above the official target range. In normal circumstances this would be greeted with mild amusement in the markets. In the present situation it merely confirms that the economy is powering ahead far too strongly.

Armed with the Bank of England's final weekly return for June, out yesterday, analysts have come up with the news that the 12-month growth rate of M0 will be 7.5 per cent — up from 5.7 per cent in May. Part of the increase reflects the comparison with a year ago, but a lot, according to Glenn Davies at CL-Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank, reflects the additional boost to the economy provided by the Budget tax cuts. The target range for M0, it may be recalled, is 1 per cent to 5 per cent.

Events, both at home and abroad, are conspiring to push interest rates here substantially higher. It may be that they are being pushed to levels which it will not be necessary to maintain in the longer term. But the price to be paid for

limiting overshooting on the exchange rate may be to overshoot on interest rates.

Yesterday's Euro-tightening of monetary policy, led by the Bundesbank and followed by Austria, Switzerland and The Netherlands, may not be the last word. The Bundesbank echoed the point made in this column on Monday, that the post-crash easing of monetary policy by the leading central banks has run its course to the point of risking an upturn in inflation.

The impact on the mark-dollar rate of the discount rate increase from 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent, and the "repo" increase from 3.5 per cent to 3.75 per cent, was negligible. Like the Bank of England, the Bundesbank is caught in the dilemma whereby rate moves are well signalled to avoid adverse market reaction, but for this reason also fail to achieve desired market reaction.

The "teenage scribblers" in the gilt market, to use a Nigel Lawson phrase — many of whom were formerly employed in the Treasury as his officials — are now looking towards a significant upward move in yields. Two weeks ago, long gilts appeared to be stuck in a yield range of 9.25 per cent to 9.5 per cent.

Yields have now moved up to 9.75 per cent and are poised to go higher. When base rates move up to 10 per cent or beyond, double-figure gilt yields cannot be far behind.

High-flyer prepares for USM landing

By Cliff Feltham

Iain Shearer, former airline pilot, will become a multi-millionaire when the property company he launched after leaving BA is floated on the Unlisted Securities Market. Phillips & Drew, the broker, is offering 27 per cent of the company, Broadwell Land, for sale at 155p a share, valuing the business at almost £40 million. Mr Shearer's own 16 per cent stake will be worth £6.4 million.

Mr Shearer, aged 39, became involved in converting and refurbishing residential properties in and around London in the early 1980s.

About 500 investors who put £5 million into his company under a Business Expansion Scheme have seen the value of their original stake multiplied eight times.

Broadwell has built up an active commercial property programme. Its biggest project is the 750,000 sq ft complex of shops, houses, and offices at London's Plantation Wharf in Battersea.

Turnover has gone up from £250,000 in 1983 to £17 million in the year just ended. Pre-tax profits over the same period are up from £4,000 to £4.1 million.

The company has put together a development portfolio of 17 projects totalling 1.5 million sq ft worth an estimated £260 million.

Of the 7 million shares being offered, 620,514 are being sold by existing shareholders and the balance issued to raise £9.5 million.

At the offer price, the price-earnings multiple, based on historic earnings per share of 14.71p, is 10.54.



Broad smiles: Iain Shearer with a model of his wharf project (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Drinks groups face £1 bn complaint

By Our City Staff

Three of Britain's leading drinks companies — Grand Metropolitan, Guinness and Allied-Lyons — face a potential £1.2 billion fine if a complaint lodged with the European Commission alleging the three have breached EEC regulations is upheld.

Irish Distillers, the maker of Jameson's and a range of other whiskeys, is fighting a hostile collective bid from the three drinks companies which they have structured through the specially formed company, GC&C Brands.

Mr Joe McCabe, the chairman of Irish Distillers, who called the bidders "an untidy alliance," has now lodged a

complaint about the bid with the Irish authorities. He has also asked the EEC to fine the bid partners up to the legally permitted maximum 10 per cent of their combined turnover for allegedly violating European Community law.

The combined 1987 turnover of GrandMet, Allied-Lyons and Guinness was £12 billion, which implies a potential maximum fine of £1.2 billion.

GC&C Brands, which has offered 315p a share, valuing the group at £168 million, says it has "noted" the attempt to stop its bona fide offer.

Irish Distillers claims that the three groups have violated Article 85 of the Treaty of

Rome by joining forces in a collective attempt to acquire the company.

"It is clear that each of the groups is itself a potential acquirer of the company. Therefore their concerted action prevents competition that might otherwise occur between independent companies seeking to strengthen their position through a corporate acquisition."

Irish Distillers has lodged an additional complaint with the Irish Minister for Industry and Commerce, the tenor of which is that a takeover of Irish Distillers would give GC&C Brands a dominant position in the drinks market which would be contrary to

the interests of both the drinks industry and consumers in Ireland.

"In short, they have prevented or substantially reduced the prospects of any competitive bid being made."

"If the acquisition goes ahead, it will result in the abusive strengthening of the dominant position the consortium members collectively and individually hold in the EC, contrary to Article 86," Irish Distillers adds.

Asking the European Commission to impose a fine, the company asserts that "there would be a serious violation" of Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome if the acquisition is allowed.

Boots sells shopfitter for £9.5m

By Our City Staff

Boots, the retail chemist, is selling its shopfitter operation, based at Eastwood, Nottingham, to Havelock Europa, the Paisley shopfitter and design group, for £9.5 million in cash.

Boots is guaranteeing orders for a minimum of £26 million will be placed with the enlarged group over the next three years, of which £10 million will come in the first 12 months.

Boots' shopfitter business, which dates back to the 1920s, carried out work worth £9.5 million for the group in the year to end-March.

Havelock is estimating pre-tax profits for the year to April 23 will be about £4 million, up from £3.12 million, with a final dividend of 6p raising the total from 6.5p to 8.6p.

It is funding the deal by placing 3.75 million new shares at 280p, the majority to be offered back to existing shareholders on a three-for-10 basis, to raise £10.5 million before expenses.

Payout at lossmaker Airtours

By Our City Staff

Airtours, the Lancashire-based tour operator specializing in low-priced package holidays, has declared a maiden interim dividend even though the pre-tax loss for the six months ended March 31 increased from £2.99 million to £4.49 million.

The company came to the stock market in March 1987, after a placing at 180p a share. Yesterday the shares were 1p easier on results at 103p.

The interim payout is 1.35p a share, and the company says the half-time loss is not unexpected because of the seasonal nature of its activities.

Mr David Crossland, the chairman, says there were very difficult trading conditions in the interim period. Half-time turnover was £17.8 million against £15.5 million in the first half of the previous year and £68.3 million in the previous full year.

Avesco presents record £3m

By Martin Waller

Avesco, the television services company, yesterday announced record pre-tax profits for the year to end-March of £3.18 million, up from £1.23 million, on turnover virtually doubled to £16.01 million from £8.37 million.

The company has also announced plans to move up to a full listing from the USM, although no new shares will be issued.

About £1 million of the

profit improvement came from the year's main acquisition, Cameron Communications, a distributor to the video industry. This purchase set Avesco firmly in three areas: products, services and distribution, each contributing equally to earnings.

Also bought during the year was the company's fourth mobile outdoor video screen, costing more than £1 million.

Two screens were shipped to Canada for the Calgary Winter Olympics, and Avesco is supplying the screens for this summer's tours by Michael Jackson and Bruce Springsteen, the pop stars.

No acquisitions are imminent, said Mr Richard Murray, the chairman.

The dividend for the year is up 50 per cent to 0.75p.

Flying to the top at Heron

Gerald Ronson, head of Heron International, the privately owned property-to-garages group, has, it seems, chosen an heir apparent. Alan Goldman, a close personal friend and a director of the company for 14 years has been made deputy chief executive — his official number two. Goldman, aged 44, and a partner with the small City accountancy firm S Brier & Co before he joined Heron, first met Ronson when he came to audit his first few sets of accounts. "It was just a tiny company then, employing four people," Goldman recalls fondly. It now has 3,000 employees scattered all around the world. "I've known Gerald for 25 years in all and, of course, we've become good friends," he says. "It's been great fun."

Goldman had, for many years, shared the responsibilities of finance director with Michael Marks, who was in turn recently made group commercial director. The position as finance director now goes to Alan Trevelyan, aged 34, who is joining the board of Heron Corporation, its main UK company. Trevelyan was, until last December, head of asset and liability management at Midland Bank.

Mike's big call
Scrimgeour Vickers, the beleaguered stockbroker, must be feeling even more downbeat at the moment, at the prospect of what might have

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Time for a proper job

There must be something in the air at Greenwell Mountagu, or perhaps in the City since last October's crash. Bill Allen, one of the characters of the gilt-edged market and capable of talking the hind legs off a donkey, is leaving to pursue a career as a writer.

Two weeks ago his colleague, Kevin Bookes, an economist, announced his departure to take up an academic post. Bill



"Very nice, but it doesn't look a bit like our other Homebase stores."

now tells me that after 20 years in the Stock Exchange he realized that he was not able to take stockbroking seriously and that it was time to get a proper job. A "not-at-all serious" book on the City is almost complete and novels are planned. He will keep his links with the Square Mile, however, as a director of Burrage Unit Trust Management.

aging director of its fledgling stockbroking arm — has finally reaped the reward of more than 20 years' conscientious endeavour. Because of his presence there, Smith New Court has just been appointed joint adviser to Vodafone, alongside Hoare Govett. "We're delighted to be involved," says Sperring. "I've known Ernest Harrison (Racal's chairman) for about 20 years, just from following the stock."

T Robinson

Our recent item (June 9) "Snip of a Tip at the Barber" referred to hairdressing-salon gossip forecasting the Thomas Robinson counterbid for John Crowthier shortly before this was officially announced. We are glad to make it clear that any suggestion that this information leaked from Henry Cooke, Lumsden, the broker, is without foundation.

Mark's mission

Mark Robinson, the erstwhile Conservative MP — and an Under Secretary of State in the Welsh Office — who lost his seat in Newport West last year, has been quietly beavering away in the hallowed halls of merchant bank Leopold Joseph — where he is a director — ever since. But the call of Parliament is, he tells me, still as strong as ever. And as of today he is joining the board of the Commonwealth Development Corporation. The appointment, made by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will involve one day's work a month. "But I will probably get other work thrown at me from time to time," says Robinson, aged 41. The corporation spends £100 million a year taking equity stakes and making long-term loans on development projects in Commonwealth countries and the board vets applications for such finance. "It's very exciting and it fits in with my background," Robinson says. Before entering Parliament in 1983 he was an assistant director in the Secretary-General's office of the United Nations in New York and he also worked for the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. Although keen to regain a seat in the House of Commons he did not put his name forward for the Kensington by-election on July 14. "I want to get some more experience of the City first." But by the time the next General Election comes along he thinks he will have experience enough.

Carol Leonard



BPB INDUSTRIES

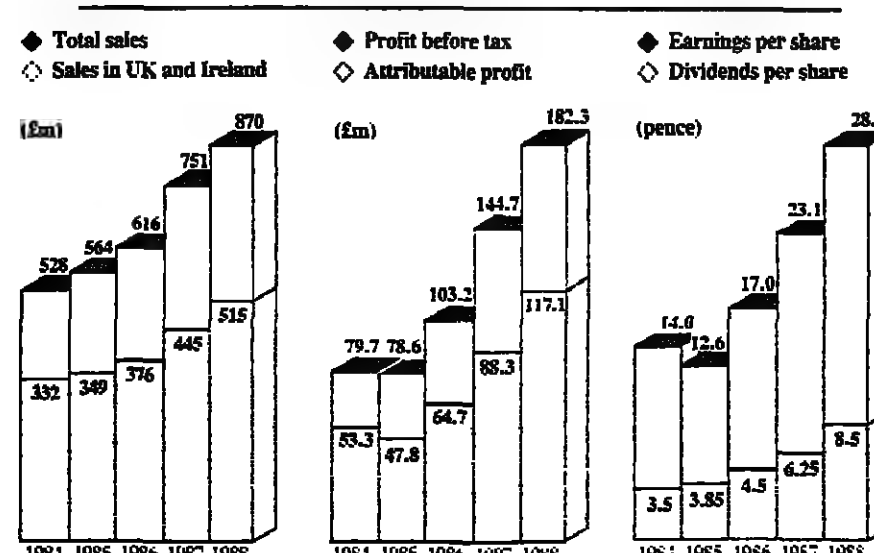
Gypsum-based products and other building materials
Paperboard and packaging

Year to 31st March 1988

26% increase in profit

25% increase in e.p.s.

36% increase in dividends



Copies of the annual report and accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, BPB Industries plc, Langley Park House, Uxbridge Road, Slough SL3 6DU (Tel. 0753 732731) from 6th July 1988.

This statement has been approved for the purposes of Section 7 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Arthur Young, Chartered Accountants, as duly authorised persons. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

Portfolio

PLUS NEW

Accumulator

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and compare this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it was on target or a share of the daily or accumulator price money stand. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name	1988 High	1988 Low	1988 Close	1988 Div	1988 P/E
1	Cable	Chemicals/Plas						
2	Sony (sa)	Drugs/Stores						
3	Bank of Scotland	Banking/Finance						
4	Bank of Ireland	Banking/Finance						
5	Bank of Wales	Banking/Finance						
6	Whitbread 'A' (sa)	Breweries						
7	Davy	Industrials A-D						
8	Wickes	Industrials A-D						
9	Wilson (Comity)	Building/Roads						
10	Davies & Newman	Industrials A-D						
11	Guinness (sa)	Breweries						
12	M&S	Electronics						
13	Anglia Sec	Building/Roads						
14	Woodward (sa)	Drugs/Stores						
15	Yale Cam	Chemicals/Plas						
16	Geest	Food						
17	Electronics	Electronics						
18	Bowling	Industrials A-D						
19	Rowland	Industrials A-D						
20	Unigate (sa)	Food						
21	Holles	Drugs/Stores						
22	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K						
23	BTR (sa)	Industrials A-D						
24	Charter Cos	Industrials A-D						
25	Scoville	Industrials S-Z						
26	Tonkins	Industrials S-Z						
27	Ratners Group	Drugs/Stores						
28	LDH	Industrials L-R						
29	BOC (sa)	Industrials A-D						
30	Halma	Industrials E-K						
31	Brammer	Industrials A-D						
32	Isotek Johnson	Building/Roads						
33	Wolstenholme Rink	Chemicals/Plas						
34	Radson Metal	Industrials L-R						
35	Metal Box (sa)	Building/Roads						
36	Wiggins	Industrials E-K						
37	Hall Eng	Industrials L-R						
38	Metal Closure	Industrials L-R						
39	Cook (Wm)	Industrials A-D						
40	Unigrip	Industrials S-Z						
41	Housing Assoc	Industrials E-K						
42	Hogg Robinson Plc	Drugs/Stores						
43	HTV Group	Cinema/TV						
44	C Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total						

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1988 High Low 1988 Close 1988 Div 1988 P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name	1988 High	1988 Low	1988 Close	1988 Div	1988 P/E
1	Cable	Chemicals/Plas						
2	Sony (sa)	Drugs/Stores						
3	Bank of Scotland	Banking/Finance						
4	Bank of Ireland	Banking/Finance						
5	Bank of Wales	Banking/Finance						
6	Whitbread 'A' (sa)	Breweries						
7	Davy	Industrials A-D						
8	Wickes	Industrials A-D						
9	Wilson (Comity)	Building/Roads						
10	Davies & Newman	Industrials A-D						
11	Guinness (sa)	Breweries						
12	M&S	Electronics						
13	Anglia Sec	Building/Roads						
14	Woodward (sa)	Drugs/Stores						
15	Yale Cam	Chemicals/Plas						
16	Geest	Food						
17	Electronics	Electronics						
18	Bowling	Industrials A-D						
19	Rowland	Industrials A-D						
20	Unigate (sa)	Food						
21	Holles	Drugs/Stores						
22	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K						
23	BTR (sa)	Industrials A-D						
24	Charter Cos	Industrials A-D						
25	Scoville	Industrials S-Z						
26	Tonkins	Industrials S-Z						
27	Ratners Group	Drugs/Stores						
28	LDH	Industrials L-R						
29	BOC (sa)	Industrials A-D						
30	Halma	Industrials E-K						
31	Brammer	Industrials A-D						
32	Isotek Johnson	Building/Roads						
33	Wolstenholme Rink	Chemicals/Plas						
34	Radson Metal	Industrials L-R						
35	Metal Box (sa)	Building/Roads						
36	Wiggins	Industrials E-K						
37	Hall Eng	Industrials L-R						
38	Metal Closure	Industrials L-R						
39	Cook (Wm)	Industrials A-D						
40	Unigrip	Industrials S-Z						
41	Housing Assoc	Industrials E-K						
42	Hogg Robinson Plc	Drugs/Stores						
43	HTV Group	Cinema/TV						
44	C Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total						

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name	1988 High	1988 Low	1988 Close	1988 Div	1988 P/E
1	Cable	Chemicals/Plas						
2	Sony (sa)	Drugs/Stores						
3	Bank of Scotland	Banking/Finance						
4	Bank of Ireland	Banking/Finance						
5	Bank of Wales	Banking/Finance						
6	Whitbread 'A' (sa)	Breweries						
7	Davy	Industrials A-D						
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24	Charter Cos	Industrials A-D						
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27	Ratners Group	Drugs/Stores						
28	LDH	Industrials L-R						
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39	Cook (Wm)	Industrials A-D						
40	Unigrip	Industrials S-Z						
41	Housing Assoc	Industrials E-K						
42	Hogg Robinson Plc	Drugs/Stores						
43	HTV Group	Cinema/TV						
44	C Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total						

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name	1988 High	1988 Low	1988 Close	1988 Div	1988 P/E
1	Cable	Chemicals/Plas						
2	Sony (sa)	Drugs/Stores						
3	Bank of Scotland	Banking/Finance						
4	Bank of Ireland	Banking/Finance						
5	Bank of Wales	Banking/Finance						
6	Whitbread 'A' (sa)	Breweries						
7	Davy	Industrials A-D						
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42	Hogg Robinson Plc	Drugs/Stores						
43	HTV Group	Cinema/TV						
44	C Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total						

UNDATED

UNDATED							
44	31	Consols	4%	42%	0	8.0	
45	47	War Ln	31%	38	..	8.1	
46	44%	Cow	34%	50%	..	6.7	
47	30%	Tread	3%	31%	..	8.1	
48	26%	Consols	27%	25%	0	8.9	
49	25%	Tread	27%	25%	..	8.97	

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading

4: Eir dividend, 6: Cash dividend, 8: Cash stock split, 9: Eir stock split, 10: Cash all (any two or more of above), 11: Eir all (any two or more of above), Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday, (2) Tuesday, (3) Wednesday, (4) Thursday, (5) Friday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 78.3 (day's range 78.1-75.4).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for June 30						
	Range	Close	1 month	3 month		
New Yrk	1,703.0-1,716.5	1,709.1-1,707.0	0.24-0.21	0.80-0.75	Argentina austra*	18,755.15-18,611
Monst	2,039.5-2,082.0	2,065.4-2,063.0	1.40-0.08	0.28-0.04	Australia dollar	2,125.2-2,162.3
Amstsd	3,504.1-3,571.1	3,567.2-3,558.1	11-14	4-15	Brazil cruzeiro	57.25-58.13
Brussels	1,747.0-1,751.0	1,747.0-1,751.0	11-14	4-15	Czech crown	20.350-20.61
Copenhagen	11,581.11-11,511.1	11,502.11-11,522.1	11-14	4-15	Cyprus pound	0.81-0.82
Frankfurt	1,151.1-1,122.1	1,151.1-1,122.1	11-14	4-15	Denmark	7,547.2-7,567.2
London	3,100.0-3,100.0	3,100.0-3,100.0	11-14	4-15	Hong Kong dollar	13,261.1-13,205.1
Madrid	271.25-274.2	271.25-274.2	11-14	4-15	Indian rupee	248.0-250.0
Milan	230.5-231.0	230.5-231.0	11-14	4-15	Korean dollar	0.415-0.435
Paris	1,296.1-1,343.1	1,296.1-1,343.1	11-14	4-15	Malaysia ringgit	4,443.2-4,452.2
Rome	1,095.0-1,095.0	1,095.0-1,095.0	11-14	4-15	Mexican peso	16.00-16.00
Stockholm	10,699.10-10,734.10	10,699.10-10,734.10	11-14	4-15	New Zealand dollar	2,530.0-2,544.0
Tokyo	12,279.22-12,281.22	12,279.22-12,281.22	11-14	4-15	Saudi Arabia riyal	6,410.50-6,450.50
Zurich	2,674.4-2,655.4	2,674.4-2,655.4	11-14	4-15	Singapore dollar	1,250.0-1,250.0
Premium - % Discout - %					South Africa rand (fin)	5,739.5-5,852.5
					Switzerland franc	3,967.3-3,967.3
					U.S. dollar	8.325-8.325
					*Lloyds Bank, Rates supplied by Ester and Barclays Bank NORF	

DOLLAR SPOT RATES					EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %	
	Range	Close	1 month	3 month		
London	1,475.0-1,475.0	1,475.0-1,475.0	11-14	4-15	Current	7 1/4-7 1/4
Singapore	2,047.0-2,040.0	2,047.0-2,040.0	11-14	4-15	Dollar	7 1/4-7 1/4
Malaysia	2,050.0-2,050.0	2,050.0-2,050.0	11-14	4-15	Cash	7 1/4-7 1/4
Canada	1,095.0-1,095.0	1,095.0-1,095.0	11-14	4-15	4 1/4-4 1/4	4 1/4-4 1/4
France	1,095.0-1,095.0	1,095.0-1,095.0	11-14	4-15	3 1/4-3 1/4	3 1/4-3 1/4
Japan	1,095.0-1,095.0	1,095.0-1,095.0	11-14	4-15	2 1/4-2 1/4	2 1/4-2 1/4
Norway	0.6425-0.6475	0.6425-0.6475				
Rates supplied by Barclays Bank NORF and E						

MONEY MARKETS					GOLD	
	Range	Close	1 month	3 month		
London	1,475.0-1,475.0	1,475.0-1,475.0	11-14	4-15		
Singapore	2,047.0-2,040.0	2,047.0-2,040.0	11-14	4-15		
Malaysia	2,050.0-2,050.0	2,050.0-2,050.0	11-14	4-15		
Canada	1,095.0-1,095.0	1,095.0-1,095.0	11-14	4-15		
France	1,095.0-1,095.0	1,095.0-1,095.0	11-14	4-15		
Japan	1,095.0-1,095.0	1,095.0-1,095.0	11-14	4-15		
Norway	0.6425-0.6475	0.6425-0.6475				
Rates supplied by Barclays Bank NORF and E						

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

[illegible]

POWER RESEARCH

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

On the 25th anniversary of the Marchwood Engineering Laboratory, Pearce Wright reviews the industry

Big savings lift morale as the sell-off looms

A five-year audit by the Central Electricity Generating Board shows its research division made direct savings of £1,800 million from its work and equal economies in indirect benefits. The investigation into the cost-effectiveness of spending on research was a unique exercise in an industrial organization.

But its conclusions must be a welcome boost for the morale of more than 2,000 graduate scientists, engineers and support staff who form the teams of problem-solvers in the board's research division, which faces uncertainties with privatization on the horizon.

It also provides a timely bouquet to mark the 25th anniversary of the Marchwood Engineering Laboratories, one of the CEGB's three main research centres.

Within the research family, Marchwood is sometimes referred to as the Big Rig, reflecting that the site, near Southampton, was chosen for the space available to build full-scale replicas to test structures for new power-station designs and their machinery.

With 110 graduate research officers and 320 support staff, Marchwood is, in numbers, the smallest of the Berkeley Laboratories, in Gloucestershire, where 95 per cent of the activities are dedicated to nuclear energy questions.

The largest of the group is the Central Electricity Research Laboratories, at Leatherhead, Surrey.

Solving problems affecting any aspect of electrical power generation, construction and transmission calls for close collaboration between research centres and their clients, who are the operators of the power stations.

In the period since the research division was formed 30 years ago, the conundrums to be resolved have increased in complexity as power stations have grown bigger, and as environmental factors and safety have loomed larger in the equations.

But the latest and most difficult problem they have ever faced is not strictly speaking a technical one.

Government plans for privatization for the electricity industry have not yet considered the issue of how to farm out the resources of the central research services when the CEGB is turned into Big G (with 75 per cent of power generation, including nuclear), Little G (with 25 per cent of generation) and a transmission company.

Derek Davis, the CEGB board member for research, who will fight the corner for the division when competing for resources, says the industry will need the same direct access to first-class research and development as it does now.

The research division is run on a "matrix" management concept. The management head of each of the laboratories reports to a director of laboratories, Dr Les Mitchell. He evaluates their requirements and prepares budgets.

Three other directors have specific responsibilities for the future interests of the CEGB in a number of broad categories.

In nuclear power, Dr Eric Carpenter covers the spread of research and technology needed to support the Magnox, AGR (advanced gas-cooled reactor) and PWR (pressurized water reactor) designs.

Advances in the efficiency of conventional plant, transmission and control systems are the prime concern of Dr Jim Lawton.

Environment research, and a wider advisory role on long-term strategy to the board, is the responsibility of a group working with Dr Peter Chester.

In effect, Mr Davis and his four directors can be regarded either as the five wise men of research or, perhaps, five men in a boat.

Over the last three years the CEGB has adopted the "customer-contractor principle" for managing research. It operates with the research division regarding the rest of the organization in terms of potential clients.

The idea is translated into practice through BOATs, which stands for Business Opportunities and Threats. A BOAT is a mechanism for defining the criteria for any programme of research, development and design.

Mr Davis believes the client-contractor relationship ensures that what is done is required, cost-effective research.

As a part of this process, a client is usually a sponsor for a BOAT proposed by one of the research groups. Each BOAT is broken down into the various elements of the research programme, explaining the reason and objectives of the project.

Each BOAT proposal is reviewed by an appropriate research requirement panel attached to one of the construction, operating or transmission divisions of the board.

Mr Davis calculates that when the cost of design work done by the board is included, the CEGB is spending 2.3 per

cent of its income on research and development. He believes that compares favourably in international terms with similar types of heavy-engineering enterprises.

Nevertheless, Mr Davis says that in deciding what is necessary for the future, there is a tranche of work for which researchers may not obtain a client. His job is then to get support for that work from other executives on the board.

Much of the environmental work comes into this category because it covers wider and longer term issues than those facing the average client, usually a plant operator, on a day-to-day basis.

In addition to the big central laboratories, several small ones provide direct support to area boards for immediate problem-solving. At sites such as Marchwood and the Central Electricity Research Laboratories, the teams are engaged in a spread of work across every type of fuel. Some groups may be working on nuclear and non-nuclear programmes at the same time.

Hence one of the problems to be faced with the approach of privatization.

There is also another period of transition ahead in the development of nuclear power. More than 40 per cent of the board's research work is devoted to gas-cooled reactor systems, and about 15 per cent to PWRs.

As Sizewell B comes closer, as the first PWR in Britain, there will be a shift in the balance of nuclear work.

Little more than ten years ago, more than half the board's research effort was dedicated to conventional energy generation. Now it copes

with about a quarter. In the same period, efforts have doubled on environmental studies.

In the future, Mr Davis sees the focus of work on the conventional side moving toward producing efficient smaller generating systems, as well as to developing cleaner ways of burning coal and to coal "gasification".

The options confronting the directors over the future of the research division include making it part of Big G to form a separate research organization serving the needs of all the companies, as a fully or partly funded organization.

Whatever the structure, Mr Davis says that the newly shaped industry will still have the same kind of technical problems as the present industry.

The trouble with environmental discussions is that "where fact leaves a vacuum, fantasy floods in," according to Dr Peter Chester, using a line borrowed from the play *Letice and Lovage*.

As director of environmental research for the Central Electricity Generating Board, he must ensure that effective studies are done to understand the ecological impact of solid, liquid and gaseous discharges from power stations.

Over the last 10 years environmental research by the CEGB has doubled to more than £25 million a year. The spotlight of research has broadened to discover the impact of discharges on the environment.

Reflecting the growing concern about acid rain, the member countries of the European Community agreed three weeks ago on plans to curb discharges of sulphur-dioxide and nitrogen oxides. These have important implications for power stations, which in Britain emit about half of the sulphur dioxide from combustion plant and a large portion of the nitrogen oxides.

Though both gases are components of acid rain, their effects on ecology is different. Long-term changes in soil occur with increased levels of sulphur dioxide in acid rain.

The impact is a two-stage process. First, the soil gradually becomes too acidic. Subsequently, the additional acid rain then trickles through the layers of soil and leaches out aluminium, which is bad for fish, into rivers and lakes, rather than calcium which is beneficial to aquatic life.

Concern about nitrogen oxides involves the salt of air pollution that was given the name smog, when it rose to nuisance proportions in Los Angeles 15 years ago. A photo-chemical reaction triggered by sunlight between nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons produces a secondary

pollutant, ozone. Though strenuous efforts are being made to protect the natural belt of ozone in the stratosphere, high concentrations in the lower atmosphere are leading to a new type of forest decline by damaging the leaves and needles of trees.

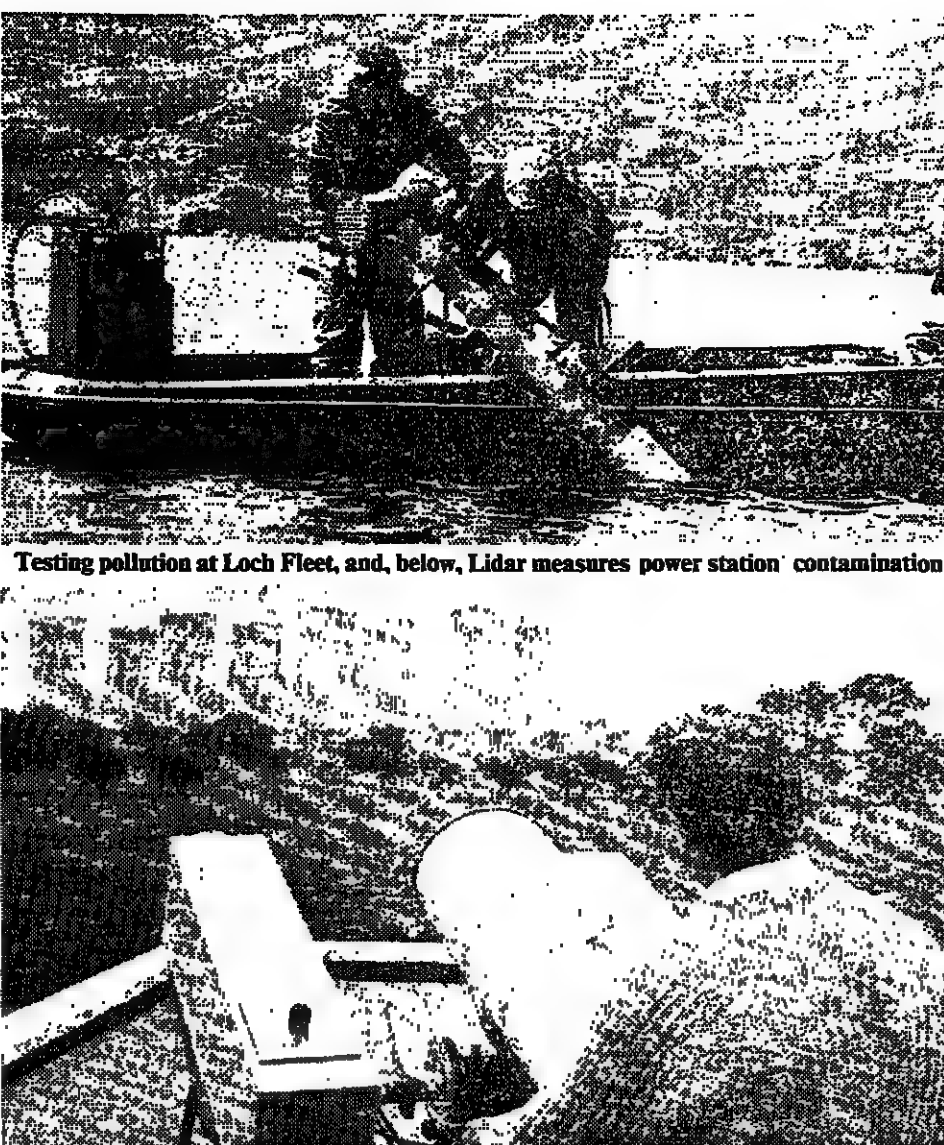
Understanding the mechanisms behind the change in soil and the damaged trees is still incomplete. Two broad avenues of work are covered by the board's own research teams. The programmes extend work by environmental physicists at the Central Electricity Research Laboratories into the way dust and gases disperse.

A new atmospheric chemistry section is refining the physical models. The tools of the new team include the photo-chemical reaction chamber, the computer and an airborne chemistry laboratory. The aim is to discover exactly what a power station emits, how the discharges travel to their ultimate destinations and what changes occur.

The question of what the discharges do when they finally come to ground is the subject of a growing research team, which includes two out-stations of the CEGB looking at fresh-water and marine biology, soil science, plant physiology and material science.

These are time-scales far longer than those to which industry is accustomed. But an experiment supported by the CEGB and British Coal is designed to see whether soil can be helped to recover more quickly. The scheme called the Loch Fleet Project, first involved a study of the soil and drainage into the waterway. The loch was devoid of fish life for years.

In the new experiment, after limestone was applied to parts of the catchment area, there was an immediate drop in levels of calcium, acidity and aluminium in the main stream flowing into the loch.



Testing pollution at Loch Fleet, and, below, Lidar measures power station contamination

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Switched on to keeping the surrounds clean

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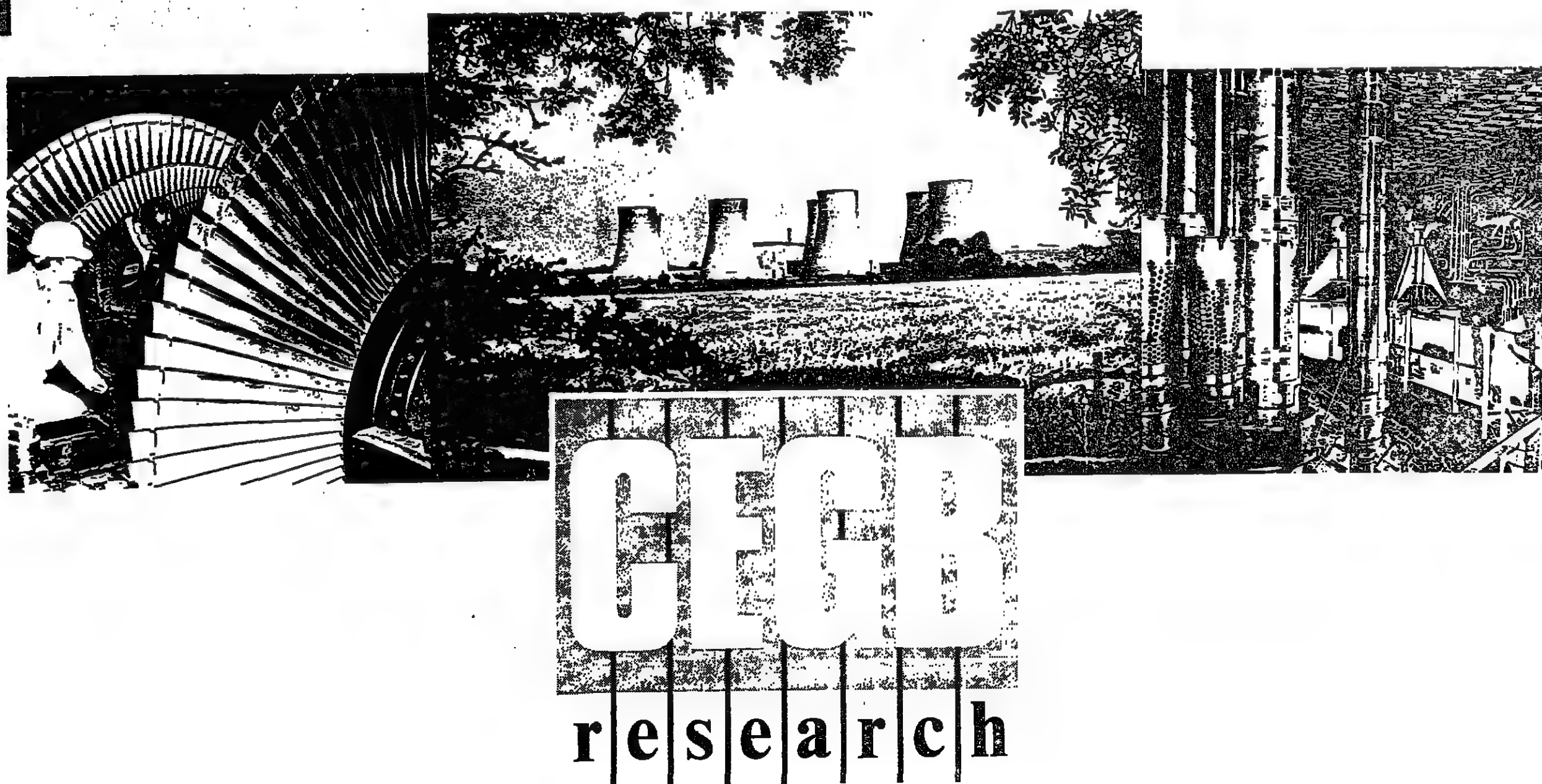
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FOCUS

Scientists lead £135m battle against pollution

Since the days of Michael Faraday, the generation of electricity has been in the forefront of technology. The esoteric disciplines of thermodynamics, fuel chemistry and metallurgy underpin the basic operation of power stations, ensuring that these gigantic "steam kettles" produce electricity as efficiently as possible.

But, increasingly, scientists involved in power generation have found themselves having to branch out into other areas as well. The use of nuclear fuel to generate electricity has spawned a vast research effort.

Concern over the effect that the by-products of power generation may be having on the environment, such as acid rain, have led to the setting up of research units devoted to studying atmospheric pollution.

The Central Electricity Generating Board's research and development programme, currently worth about £135 million, centres on three large laboratories based in the South of England: the Central Electricity Research Laboratories (CERL) near Leatherhead, Surrey, the Marchwood Engineering Laboratories (MEL) near Southampton, and Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories (BNL) in Gloucestershire.

CERL is the largest of the three, and has the widest scientific scope. About 300 research staff work there, the research activities being split into six areas, ranging from developing new instrument gauges to understanding the chemistry of entire lakes and rivers.

Over the last few years CERL has emerged as the major centre for the C.E.G.B.'s research into the controversial area of the environmental impact of power generation. The Act of Parliament which formed the C.E.G.B. in 1957 included a clause ensuring that the environment would be a major concern for the industry.

The C.E.G.B. now has more than 100 scientists and engineers working on this area alone, with an annual research budget of £4 million plus. The development of technology to put this anti-pollution research into practice takes another £12 million.

The C.E.G.B.'s research looks at the possible effects on both land and water. CERL has an out-station in Hampshire, the Fawley Marine Biological Laboratory, which is a centre for research on acid waters. The Freshwater Biology Unit at Ratcliffe on Soar, near Nottingham, also investigates possible effect on rivers.

The Marchwood Engineering Laboratories, opened in 1963, is the centre for the board's research into ways of improving the combustion of coal, and



Aerial view: Dr Ian Funnell examining power lines from a GECB helicopter

taking out the sulphur and oxides of nitrogen claimed to cause acid rain.

About 85 per cent of the electricity in England and Wales is produced by burning coal and oil, so much of the work of the 100 or so scientists at MEL is centred on improving the efficiency of this long-established power production method. Better combustion efficiency means lower levels of pollution.

But much of the engineering behind the safety and reliability claims of the C.E.G.B. for its nuclear power stations is carried out at MEL.

For example, to avoid costly unscheduled reactor maintenance, components of reactors must be made as wear-resistant as possible. Long-term testing of such components is carried out at MEL.

It is at the board's Berkeley nuclear laboratories that most of the nuclear research is carried out. A measure of the sophistication of the work done here is that around 140 of the staff have doctorates.

Berkeley's research effort is decided in four main areas: fuels, plant chemistry, structural mechanics and performance and safety.

The board says that BNL is one of the world's leading centres for the study of materials science, especially nuclear metallurgy. Metals inside the core of a reactor are subjected to severe conditions.

Predicting the effects of all this on the lifetime of the reactor is one of the tasks of BNL. It is then able to advise the C.E.G.B. on the viability of considerably extending the life of reactors beyond that for which they were designed to operate.

The performance and safety group at BNL carry out detailed theoretical work on, among other things, the fast breeder reactor.

Dr Leslie Mitchell, director of laboratories at the C.E.G.B., has overall responsibility for their day-to-day operation. He is also involved with ensuring the board recruits suitably qualified young graduates and post-graduates.

Dr Mitchell says that the scope of the research work the board can offer attracts considerable numbers of the best graduates to apply each year, with applications exceeding positions by as much as 3 or 4-1.

"One of the attractions for graduates is coming into one of the biggest research organizations in the country," he says. Elsewhere, many young scientists can find themselves working on projects such as new computers or weapons systems that never see the light of day.

The C.E.G.B. can offer work of direct application, says Dr Mitchell: "A lot of our people get close to practical problems. For example, our Flying Chemistry Group studies the transport of atmospheric pollutants directly from the air. We also use infra-red cameras to look for faults on electricity transmission lines from helicopters."

Another attraction is that much of the work is perceived to be of global importance. "For example, acid rain is of public interest, so you can work on problems that you can talk about with your friends," says Dr Mitchell.

Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

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Temperature control: a research worker measures heat flux in a power station boiler

Quest for savings

Most of the Central Electricity Generating Board's research on conventional coal-fired generating plant has been associated with the drive to larger and yet larger turbine-generators and boilers.

In 1950, the first 60MW steam turbine-generator was commissioned. This rating was to be the standard for the future but almost before AEI (now GEC) had finished building its new Larnae factory designed to make 60MW sets on a production line, the standard was changed to 120MW. And size was pushed further in one-off units until the first of the new standard of 500MW was ordered in 1966.

More than 40 of these 500MW sets were built. Now they form the largest tranche of baseload generating plant in Britain, nearly half of the CEB's generating capacity. It was claimed that the design was based on experience gained with the 120MW units. But testing troubles with these 500MW sets kept the research laboratories busy for several years.

Hardly had these problems been resolved when the board then introduced a standard 660MW set which has been installed mainly in the second generation (AGC) nuclear stations. Currently the CEB is specifying a standard 900MW rating for coal-fired stations.

One of the main reasons for increasing the size of plant is

to improve the efficiency of energy conversion from coal to electricity. Much research has therefore been tied up squeezing the last drop of efficiency out of power station plant by increasing the steam temperatures and reducing the exhaust temperature.

In 1950, the average thermal efficiency was about 22 per cent. By 1972, when most of the 500 MW sets had been commissioned, a 10 point rise in efficiency (to 32 per cent) had been achieved. Some 14 years on, in 1986/87, just three extra points had been gained with overall efficiency reaching 35 per cent.

Apart from these diminishing returns, size has brought other problems. For example, economics dictate that large generators should operate 24 hours a day but some of the larger sets are being subjected to frequent shut-down, usually overnight, because of the retirement of the older, smaller, and more flexible units. So methods have had to be developed to minimize mechanical damage during cooling, following shutdown, and reheating for start-up next day.

Other research includes fairly mundane long-term experiments on the strength of materials at high temperatures and high stresses, corrosion and the effect of water droplets on turbine blades.

Although the board's laboratories have built up an

enormous expertise with large units, the design of the furnaces for the future 900MW boilers is said to require "extrapolation beyond our present experience", so a heat transfer computer programme has been developed to predict gas temperatures and heat fluxes in the proposed designs.

The problems of large plant have occupied much of the CEB's research and development effort but the relentless pursuit of the philosophy of "economies of scale" has served the CEB well because it has enabled it to be seen to be meeting its statutory obligation to produce electricity as cheaply as possible.

But, because of the diminishing returns, this philosophy has long since ceased to be commercially attractive.

One large consortium considering entering the private generation market believes the optimum economic size of a turbine-generator/boiler unit is 300MW.

Following privatization, the "economies of scale" mentality will probably be replaced by a "least cost" policy.

It is not surprising that most of the companies considering entering the private generation market after privatization are looking at smaller, cheaper plants, such as combined-cycle plants, based on the futuristic development of coal gasification, but have resisted the construction of combined heat

Britain's renewable sources of energy — the wind, tide, solar power, geothermal hot rocks, fuel from refuse and agricultural waste — have been given a long-awaited boost in the first review to be published by the Government, *Renewable Energy in the UK: The Way Forward*.

The report discloses that the Government is prepared to earmark about £20 million a year until the end of the century on research and development into new technologies that could eventually "make a useful and economic contribution", writes Pearce Wright.

The supporters of renewable energy sources will probably say it is "not a lot". But coming ahead of privatization of the electricity supply industry, the study gives a clear statement of the Government's perception of this source of energy, which should be welcome.

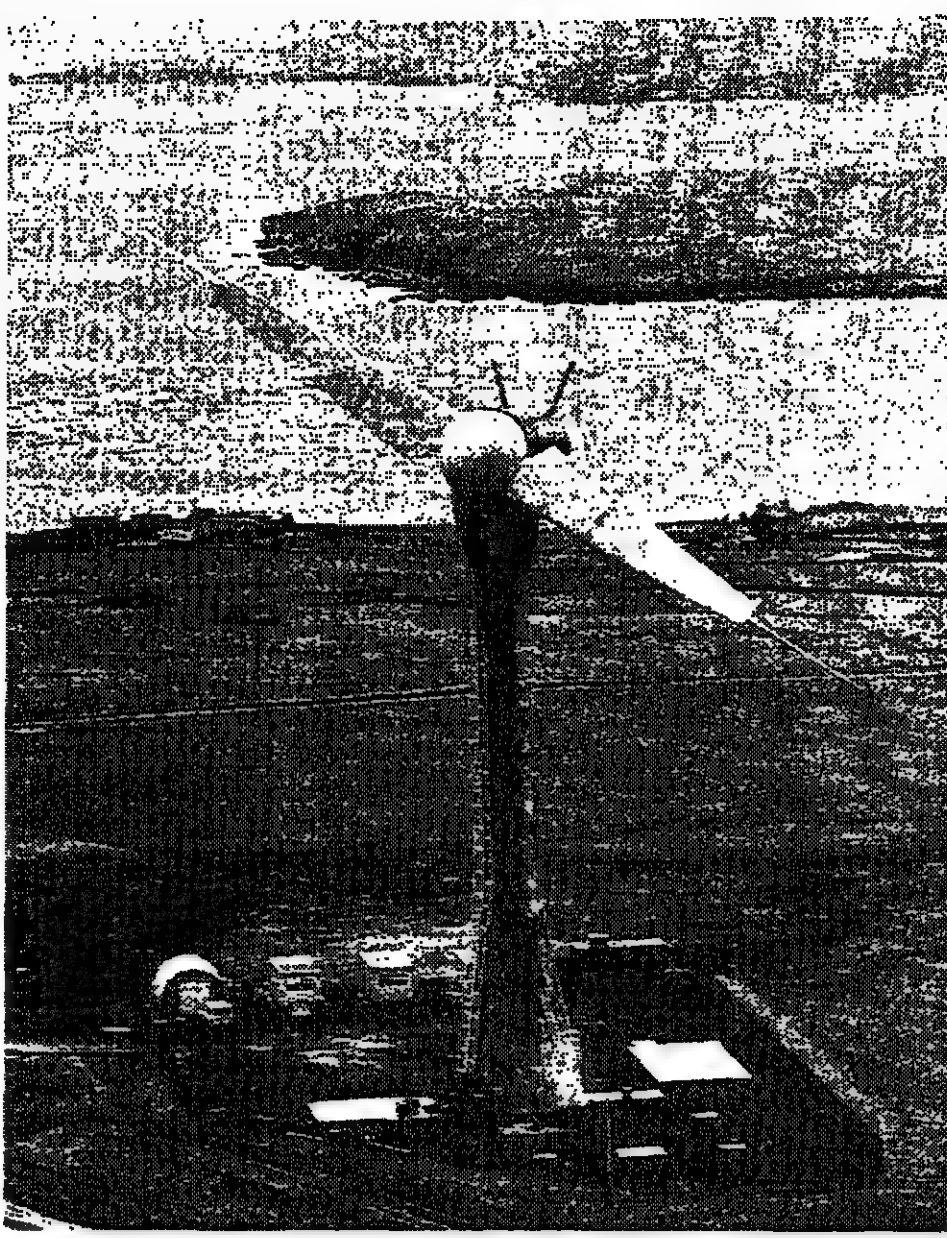
In the White Paper on privatization, the Government offers some protection for supplies of non-fossil fuels.

Environmental groups may raise eyebrows to discover that incentives for alternative energy supplies will fall into the same category as incentives for nuclear power.

More important, the Government report recognizes that attempts to develop renewable sources of energy have been thwarted by an unfair market, which has favoured fossil and nuclear fuels.

For instance, under local rating systems, an entrepreneur is charged 10 times more for building some form of power generator than the electricity boards.

Some experts see the renewable energy sources in terms of a north and south European divide. The wind and the tides offer the best prospects in the north and solar energy in the south. In theory, all of Brit-



Wind of power: the Government is planning a £28 million experimental wind-farm

ain's electricity supply could come from renewable sources of energy.

The report, for the Department of Energy, says that one tidal barrage across the River Severn could, within 15 years, generate more than six per cent of the country's demands.

At the other end of the spectrum, individual houses and buildings could help save the equivalent of 1.6 million tonnes of coal a year if architects and builders took more care to exploit "passive" solar energy.

Fuel pellets made from refuse, straw and other wastes could provide the equivalent of 15 million tonnes of coal a year by the year 2025.

An indication of how the Department of Energy ranks various developments is reflected in recent announcements. They include:

● £28 million for an experimental wind-farm programme with the Central Electricity Generating Board;

● An additional £8 million for research on geothermal hot dry rocks;

● £7 million for feasibility studies of tidal barrages;

● £5 million for design and field studies on passive solar building designs.

Dr Philip Surman, a specialist in alternative energy with the CEB, says renewable resources have the advantage of usually being at the periphery of the electricity distribution system, where they are most needed.

Dr Surman, project manager for the CEB's wind power schemes, says his technology received an important stimulus after the oil crisis in 1973, particularly with tax incentives to encourage research and development in the United States. He believes wind power is "shaking down well".

The individual wind generators built by the CEB as demonstration machines have attracted favourable attention, and public opinion is now being sought about the plan to build three large inland wind parks.

Dr Surman said: "However, wind energy prospers on hilly sites which are also recognized for their good scenery."

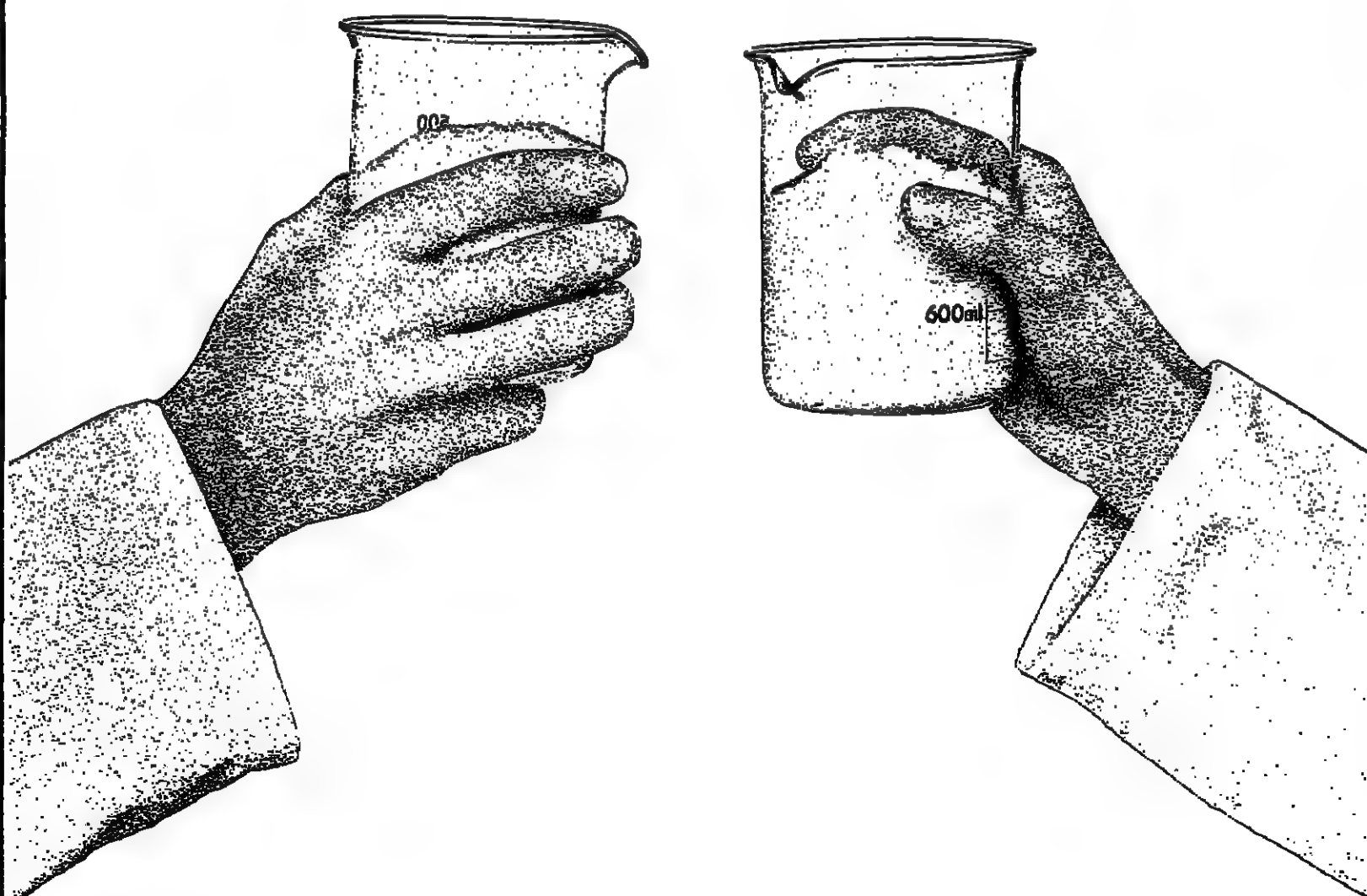
Hence, the CEB is examining the use of off-shore sites for the construction of wind farms.

The vast shallow waters round the British coast could, in theory, more than meet Britain's electricity supply. At the early stage of development, off-shore installations looked too expensive.

But researchers at the CEB have revised their designs for off-shore operations, and believe economic systems can be developed.

They hope to test the first off-shore machine near Wells-next-to-the-Sea, in Norfolk.

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Radio 4 signals
switch on the
power saver

and power plant because the output from these stations would be distributed locally (as would the heat) and not via the board's grid system.

The CEB takes no interest in the economic use of its product, leaving this research to the electricity boards.

However, demand management to improve the economics of production is seen to come within the CEB's scope. For example, the development of the radio teleswitch. Used in conjunction with the cheap Economy 7 night tariff, the teleswitch, which is actuated by signals transmitted over Radio 4, allows the CEB to switch the large domestic water and storage heating loads at times best suited to the own operations.

Demand management could be extended with very little extra R&D effort. For example, the minute-by-minute marginal costs of electricity production, used to programme the operation of the cheapest stations first, could be supplied to large users in the form of a spot price.

Apart from generating plant, much of the CEB's research has been devoted to the transmission grid. Again the effect of the "economies of scale" philosophy can be detected and the CEB's laboratories have had to solve difficult switching problems associated with, for example, very high fault currents.

The fate of the CEB's laboratories after privatization has still to be decided but the grid company and Big G (the private company made up of 70 per cent of the CEB's existing power stations) will probably support most of the existing work.

Other private generators will be more cautious and may restrict work to a contract basis only.

John Cogle
Editor, *Electrical Review*

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Going nuclear: how to avoid 'suprise' snags

Though nuclear stations account for only one-fifth of the Central Electricity Generating Board's electrical output, by far the majority of its research and development spending is devoted to them.

This research intensiveness is partly due to the demanding nature of the technology and, of course, the stringent safety requirements. But some of it also stems from the fact that getting Britain's present generation of nuclear plants — the Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs) — to operate as their designers intended has proved considerably more difficult than anyone anticipated.

Work in support of AGRs accounts for about £40 million of the £125 million spent each year on nuclear research and development. About £33 million comes out of the £70 million research division budget and a further £7 million is spent on engineering development through the

construction department at Barnwood.

In the words of CEGB chairman Lord Marshall, AGR technology has tended to be prone to delivering up "unpleasant surprises".

One example of an unexpected phenomenon was deposition of carbon on fuel elements and boiler tubes, reducing efficiency of heat removal from the core and entailing costly power reductions to keep to the rigorous safety requirements.

But a major research and development effort, including laboratory experiments and development of special techniques for monitoring temperatures on fuel elements deep inside the reactors has succeeded in restoring the lost generation.

Another significant achievement of the AGR research effort has been a progressive increase in the amount of electricity generated from each tonne of fuel placed in the reactor — called "burn-up".

Research of this sort clearly

comes firmly under the heading of "applied", and constitutes by far the bulk of the CEGB's nuclear programme.

Dr Eric Carpenter, the CEGB's research director, Nuclear Plant, explains that in research of this type problems tend to be well defined but "often require urgent resolution, with no established practices to derive a solution."

Success in these circumstances, he believes, depends upon being able to bring in a body of specialists who are not only expert in their subject but are familiar with the design

International research

principles and operational practices and constraints at the nuclear power plants themselves.

"We have to be flexible and responsive to operational needs, and this is reflected in a high degree of 'interrupt-

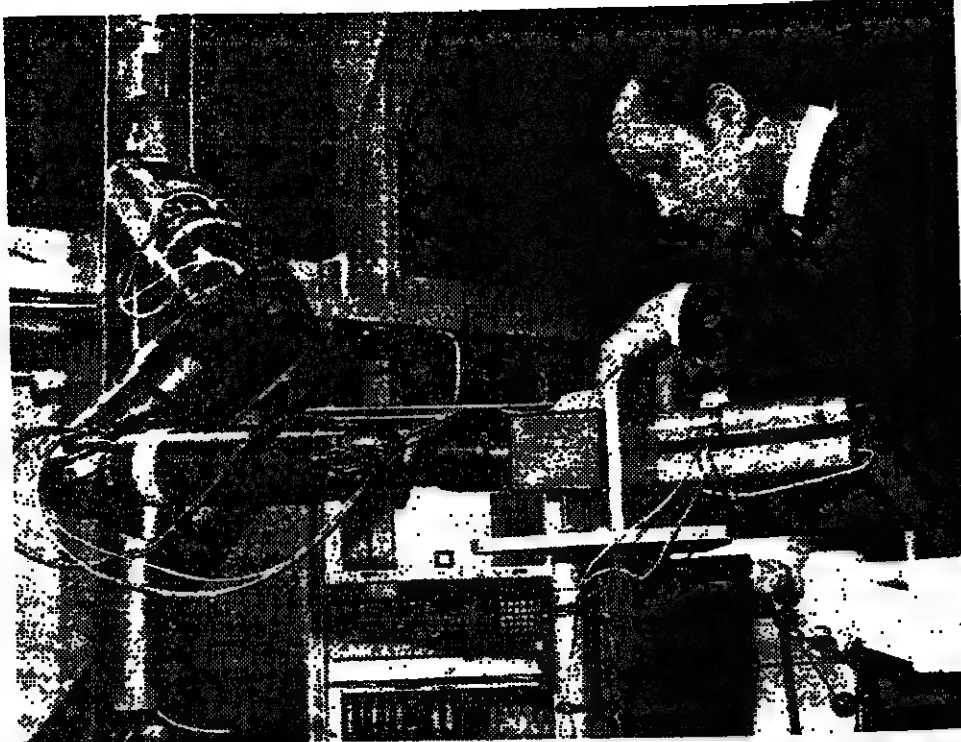
ibility" in the research programme, such that on average some 30 per cent of the work is in response to short term needs which could not have been explicitly planned for."

But with the establishment of the PWR (pressurized water reactor) in Britain — the first of which is under construction at Sizewell — the board is looking forward to a more surprise-free future.

The hope is that the emphasis can be switched from research aimed at solving problems to programmes aimed at avoiding them in the first place — leading eventually to a decline in the R&D costs associated with nuclear power.

After the AGR, research in support of establishing the PWR accounts for the next largest chunk of CEGB nuclear R&D spending, around £36 million of the £125 million total.

At this stage most of the effort is going into "validation of the safety case", to use their jargon. This essentially means providing final fully doc-



Warrior under test: a triumph of welding deep inside the Oldbury Magnox reactor

umented confirmation that Sizewell B meets UK criteria in every detail.

It is intended to be essentially a one-off effort that will stand the board, and its successor, in good stead for Hinkley Point C and subsequent PWRs.

One undeniable advantage of the PWR over Britain's home-grown gas cooled types is that, as the PWR accounts for more than 60 per cent of world nuclear installed capacity, considerable benefit can be drawn from being a member of a worldwide club.

The CEGB is already active in international research programmes, for example on the simplification of pipework and on steam generators (the equivalent of the boilers in a PWR), which have been a particular source of difficulties.

But the CEGB is not just a recipient of knowledge from overseas. It is also in a position to put a good deal back into the world PWR community.

For example the LOMI decontamination process, developed at Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories, is in wide use in a number of countries and the test rigs at Marchwood are unique in the world in their ability to subject PWR valves to the exactly the same ardu-

ous conditions that they would encounter in real reactors. They are attracting interest from potential overseas clients.

Dr Carpenter cites the Marchwood valve rigs as an example of strategic research, where "neither the client departments nor the plant itself has got around to letting us know what work they want."

Another example particularly dear to him is the highly successful CEGB programme of work on sophisticated robotic manipulators that can perform very clever feats of inspection and repair in the innards of reactors, where human access is out of the question.

A recent triumph was the carrying out of welds deep inside the Oldbury Magnox reactor with a remarkable machine called Warrior

(Welding and Repair Robot in Oldbury Reactors) a case where the name was made up after the acronym if ever there was one.

Magnox units, such as Oldbury, were Britain's first generation of reactors. R&D efforts for them are largely directed at dealing with the problems of old age. As well as making enormous strides in remote monitoring inspection and repair, such as Warrior, the research division has improved basic understanding of how and why reactor materials age, in particular the problem of oxidation.

CEGB researchers have also made fundamental contributions to the science of fracture mechanics and defect assessment. The board's formal procedures, known enigmatically as R6, are now widely adopted worldwide.

As to the final de-

commissioning of the reactor cores of Magnox units, the board's researchers believe, on the basis of detailed analysis, that this can be safely delayed for 100 years or so, with a reduction in the overall dose to the public — to say nothing of savings of a billion pounds or more.

This is presumably part of the justification for the board's recent decision to withdraw from the UK Atomic Energy Authority's project to decommission the small prototype AGR at Windscale.

But the prime reason was that the project failed to meet the board's cost-benefit criteria. The techniques being developed at Windscale were not considered sufficiently applicable to the board's own reactors.

But decommissioning is not the only UKAEA programme out of favour with the electricity generators just now.

Lord Marshall, who as well as being chairman of the CEGB is also chairman designate of Big G, the privatized generation company which will take on the CEGB's nuclear interests, has explained recently that shareholders in Big G would be very unlikely to support development of the fast breeder reactor (intended to be the reactor design of the future, using "fast" neutrons to breed new fuel).

He considers such long term projects to be a matter for the government.

Ironically, it was only recently that the CEGB started putting substantial funding into the FBR programme, around £30 million per year.

Another issue raised by privatization is of course the future of the nuclear research function itself. It seems likely that activities bearing on safety, which in practice means a very large proportion, will continue along similar lines.

This is because under the UK licensing system safety is the ultimate responsibility of the utility and the utility alone. A primary responsibility of the Research Division is to help the utility meet this responsibility.

"To do this, the division is continually exploring the boundaries of knowledge in safety related topics," says Dr Carpenter.

James Varley
Editor,
Nuclear Engineering International

CEGB nuclear research spending (£m)

PROJECT	RESEARCH		DEVELOPMENT
	Internal	External*	
Magnox	7	0	0
Fuel cycle (waste, transport, etc)	3	1	3
AGR	20	13	7
SWR	7	17	12
FBR	1	0	34

* External means contracts placed with outside organizations such as the National Nuclear Corporation, UKAEA

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Male worker not fatal to equal pay claim

Pickstone and Others v Freeman plc

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Templeman, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle
[Speeches June 30]

A woman who was doing work of equal value to that of a man doing a different job in the same establishment was not entitled to be treated as a man for the purposes of the Equal Pay Act 1970, as amended, from claiming parity of pay with the man, simply because there was another man doing the same job as herself.

The exclusionary words in section 1(2)(c) were intended to deprive the woman from making such a claim only if there was a man with whom she sought comparison who was employed on the same job as herself.

The House of Lords held that the words "a man" in section 1(2)(c) of the Equal Pay Act 1970, as amended, from claiming parity of pay with the man, simply because there was another man doing the same job as herself.

Section 1 of the 1970 Act, as amended by section 8 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and regulation 2 of the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1794), provides: "(2) An equality clause is a provision which relates to terms... of a contract under which a woman is employed... and has the effect that: (a) where the woman is employed on like work with a man in the same employment... (b) where the woman is employed on work rated as equivalent to that of a man in the same employment... (c) where a woman is employed on work which, not being work in relation to which paragraph (a) or (b) above applies, is, in terms of the demands made on

her... of equal value to that of a man in the same employment... (i) if... any term of the woman's contract is or becomes less favourable to the woman than a term of a similar kind in the contract under which the man is employed, that term of the woman's contract shall be treated as so modified as not to be less favourable; and (ii) if... at any time the woman's contract does not include a term corresponding to a term included in the contract under which the man is employed, that term shall be treated as including such a term."

Mr Christopher Carr, QC and Mr Patrick Elias for the employers; Mr Anthony Lester, QC and Mr David Pannick for the applicants.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that the employers conducted a mail order business. The applicants were five women who were employed as warehouse operatives at a basic weekly wage of £4.66. The Phillips was a man employed as a warehouse operative at a basic weekly wage of £8.18.

The applicants asserted that the work carried out by them was equal in value to the work of Mr Phillips in terms of the demands, effort, skill and decision-making involved and that the disparity between their pay and that of Mr Phillips was due to the difference of sex; the applicants were paid less because they were women.

The applicants complained to the industrial tribunal that they were the victims of sex discrimination, contrary to the provisions of the Equal Pay Act 1970 and contrary to Community law.

The industrial tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal found for the employers. The Court of Appeal decided that the community law did not apply to the facts of the case. The applicants had an enforceable right to equal pay with Mr Phillips for work of equal value. The employers appealed to their Lordships' House.

Section 1(2)(c) was introduced into the 1970 Act by the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations 1975 in connection with the ruling of the European Court of Justice in *Commission v United Kingdom* (Case No 61/91) (The Times July 17, 1982) [1982] ICR 578 that the United Kingdom had not adopted the measures necessary to comply with the Equal Pay Directive (75/117/EEC). It enabled a woman to claim equal pay for work of equal value where the employer refused to consent to a job evaluation study.

The 1983 Regulations also introduced into the 1970 Act directions for dealing with claims under section 1(2)(c). This by section 2A of the 1970 Act was the issue of "work of equal value" determined by the industrial tribunal if there were no reasonable grounds for complaint, or by a job evaluation study if the study was itself discriminatory and, finally, and only if necessary, by the tribunal with the assistance of a report of an independent expert appointed by ACAS.

According to the employers in the present appeal, the 1983 Regulations had the effect of depriving some women of the right to pursue their claims by judicial process or otherwise although they considered themselves wronged by the unequal pay. If the applicants applied the principle of equal pay, they would be deprived of a valid complaint in that they were not receiving equal pay with Mr Phillips for work of equal value. If the applicants sought to remedy that discrimination under section 1(2)(c) they would be employed on "work to which paragraph (a) or (b) above applies."

It was said that paragraph (a) operated, not because the applicants were employed on like work with Mr Phillips but because the community law did not apply to the facts of the case. The applicants had an enforceable right to equal pay with Mr Phillips for work of equal value. The employers appealed to their Lordships' House.

Since paragraph (c) was expressed to apply only when a woman was employed on work

which was not "work in relation to which paragraph (a) or (b) above applies", it followed, so it was said, that where a woman was employed on like work with a man in the same employment, that right was not dependent on there being no man who was employed on the same work as the woman.

Under British law, namely the Equal Pay Act 1970, as amended in 1975, a woman was entitled to equal pay for work rated as equivalent to that of a man in the same employment. That right was not dependent on there being no man who was employed on the same work as the woman.

Under the ruling of the European Court of Justice in *Commission v UK* the Equal Pay Act as amended in 1975 was held to be defective because the Act did not entitle every woman to claim before a competent authority that her work had the same value as other work, but only allowed a claim by a woman who succeeded in persuading her employer to consent to a job evaluation scheme.

The 1983 Regulations were intended to give full effect to Community law and to the ruling of the European Court of Justice which directed the United Kingdom Government to introduce legislation entitling any woman to equal pay with any man for work of equal value if the difference in pay was due to her being a woman and was therefore discriminatory.

His Lordship was of the opinion that the 1983 Regulations, upon their true construction, achieved the required result of affording a remedy to any woman who was not in receipt of equal pay for work of equal value to the work of a man in the same employment.

Lord Keith and Lord Oliver delivered concurring judgments. Lord Brandon and Lord Jauncey agreed.

Solicitors: Slaughter & May; Sharpe Pritchard & Co for W. Douglas Clark, Brooks & Co, West Bromwich.

Employee cannot be singled out for redundancy payment net of income tax

Gothard v Mirror Group Newspapers Ltd

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Gidwell and Lord Justice Staughton
[Judgment June 30]

Where an employee accepted early retirement on terms that he would receive a payment of wages for a period in lieu of notice, and other employees received similar payments free of deduction of income tax, the natural meaning of the offer was that the payment in lieu would be calculated on a gross basis.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the employers, Mirror Group Newspapers Ltd, from a decision of Mrs Assistant Recorder Brenda Hoggett, sitting at Clerkenwell County Court, who, on November 25, 1987, had given judgment in favour of the plaintiff, Frank Richard Gothard, on a claim for £3,109.33 due under an agreement for voluntary redundancy.

Mr Patrick Elias for Mirror Group; Mr Gothard in person.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in November 1985 Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, had come to the conclusion that Mirror Group Newspapers were overmanned and had prescribed drastic reorganisation. The workforce would be reduced by 2,000 before the end of the year or MGN would perish.

His prescription had contemplated that the slimming target would be met by a combination of voluntary early retirements. In a circular letter dated November 12, 1985 he had explained his policy and given examples of the financial arrangements which would be made for those who accepted early retirement. The letter had added "Your period of

notice is 6 months (and 7 weeks). A payment in lieu will be made for any unworked notice at the date of termination." The parenthetical addition had been made in manuscript.

The dispute between the parties concerned that payment in lieu. What Mr Gothard had been paid was a sum equal to half his gross annual salary, based on six months' salary, plus seven weeks. Mr Gothard contended that what he had been offered and had accepted was a lump sum calculated by reference to the longer period.

Failing a settlement of his claim, Mr Gothard had started proceedings in the county court for £3,109.33, being the difference between what he had been paid and that to which he was entitled, together with interest.

The action was heard on November 25, 1987, by Mrs Assistant Recorder Brenda Hoggett, who had found in favour of Mr Gothard. In concluding that Mr Gothard was entitled to a payment in lieu calculated by reference to six months and seven weeks, the judge had found as a fact that a variation of the offer reducing the period to six months had never come to Mr Gothard's attention before he had accepted the original offer. That finding was probably unappealable, and was now accepted.

Mr Gothard had produced before the Court of Appeal *Publisher's Bulletin No 11* from Mr Maxwell headed "Pension Benefits for Under-50s" dated November 22, 1985. That included the sentence: "These are substantial benefits. In addition, of course, there would be tax-free payments for unexpired notice and redundancy payments."

Mr Gothard was not in that group, but there was no suggestion that in that respect the over-50s were to be penalised, and the court had been told that the payment in lieu of all employees taking early retirement, including Mr Gothard, had been calculated by MGN on a gross basis.

By a letter dated November 28, Mr Gothard had been offered a choice of three different lump sum payments. The letter had added "Your period of

notice is 6 months (and 7 weeks). A payment in lieu will be made for any unworked notice at the date of termination." The parenthetical addition had been made in manuscript.

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The position on the opening of the appeal was that MGN had lost on their primary contention that the relevant period was six months. They could not overcome that obstacle, but sought instead to outflank Mr Gothard by alleging that they had a legal entitlement to reduce his payment in lieu by reference to net, rather than gross pay, notwithstanding that they were content to pay all other early retirees on the basis of gross pay.

While MGN had not sought to take that to its logical conclusion and, alleging that they had overpaid Mr Gothard, sought a counterclaim for the excess, there was an unattractive argument which rode unsteadily with Mr Maxwell's assertion that the terms offered were "generous and fair".

Generosity might be thought by some to include accepting the judge's decision. Fairness surely included giving the same interpretation to payment in lieu in the case of all employees.

It was not a case in which an employer wrongfully dismissed an employee without the appropriate notice and paid money in lieu of notice. There was no question of notice or wrongful dismissal.

Mr Gothard, and other employees, had offered to take early retirement and so to terminate their contracts of employment on December 31, 1985. There had therefore been a consensual severance of the employment relationship.

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Term limiting tenders for water company stock is lawful

Morgan Grenfell Group plc and Another v Mid Kent Water Co

Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Mann
[Judgment June 29]

Conditions limiting the amount of stock for which any individual could tender were not contrary to section 75(3) of the Water Act 1945, although they might reduce the price which the stock might realise, nor did they give rise to a preference contrary to subsection (2)(d).

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Morgan Grenfell Group plc and Morgan Grenfell & Co Ltd, from Mr Justice Gidwell's judgment of June 25, 1987, in favour of the defendants, Mid Kent Water Co, in an action brought by the plaintiffs for (i) a declaration that the proposed issue by means of an offer for sale by tender of 6 per cent ordinary stock in Mid Kent Water Co on the conditions set out in clause 3 of Part IV of the listing particulars and tender form issued on behalf of the defendants and dated June 20, 1988 was ultra vires and void, and (ii) an injunction restraining the defendants from issuing any stock on the terms of clause 3.

Condition 3 of the conditions of tender provided: "The maximum amount of the stock for which any tenders from any person will be accepted is the lesser of: (i) the amount of the stock which would confer on the tenderer the right to exercise 15 per cent of the voting rights

exercisable at any general meeting of the company...; and (ii) the amount of the stock which, when taken together with the existing voting capital stock in the company held by the tenderer... will confer on the tenderer... the right to exercise 29.9 per cent of the voting rights exercisable at any general meeting of the company... or, in the case of a person who on the date of the allotment holds 30 per cent or more of the voting rights in the company, the amount of the stock which would increase that holding by up to 2 per cent."

Section 75 of Schedule 3 to the Water Act 1945 (as amended by the Mid Kent Water Order (SI 1980 No 1013)) provides: "(2) All shares or stock issued by the undertakers shall be offered for sale by public auction or tender in such a manner... and subject to such conditions of sale as the undertakers shall from time to time determine provided that (a) notice of the intended sale shall be given to the local authority...; (b) a reserve price shall be fixed...; (c) in the case of a sale by tender, no preference shall be given to one of two or more persons tendering the same sum...; (d) any share or stock which has been offered for sale in accordance with the last foregoing subsection and is not sold may be disposed of at such a price and in such a manner as the undertakers may determine for the purpose of realising the best price obtainable."

Mr David Oliver, QC, and Mr Michael Suggs, for Morgan Grenfell; Mr William Stubbs, QC, and Mr Leslie Kosmin for Mid Kent Water.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that the plaintiffs were the owners of £5 million 84 per cent Preference Stock in the defendants and entitled to exercise a little over 50 per cent of the voting rights at a general meeting.

On June 20, 1988, listing particulars and a tender form had been issued on behalf of the defendants in connection with an offer for sale of stock which would raise £19m. When added to the existing share capital the total would not exceed £20m.

The particulars stated that the provisions of condition 3(a) and (b) were imposed to protect the stockholders with some protection against possible changes of voting control arising from applications under the tender which was equivalent to the protection which would be provided in respect of acquisitions of stock made in market by reason of the Rules Governing Substantial Acquisitions of Shares and the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers.

The directors believed that it was in the best interests of the company to impose such safeguards. The maximum amount of the stock to be issued would represent 63 per cent of the stock of the enlarged company.

That situation was unattractive to the plaintiffs because they could, under the terms of the offer, only tender subject to the limitations of condition 3 and consequently faced possible dilution of their holding.

The plaintiffs asserted that condition 3 was likely to lead to lower tenders and therefore prevent the obtaining by the

company of the best price for the stock which was on offer.

The court was concerned only with the question of statutory construction, whether the provisions of condition 3 ran counter to the provisions of section 75 of the Water Act 1945.

Mr Oliver said that there was a clear obligation on the directors not to impose conditions which would do other than obtain the best price for the stock.

There were, it was said, other pointers: the sale was to be by public auction or tender; in the case of an auction a bid (other than a first bid) would not be recognised unless it was in advance of the preceding bid; and unbid stock was to be disposed of in such manner as the undertakers might determine for the purpose of realising the best price obtainable.

Those matters were certainly aids to obtaining the best price, but they could not be regarded as the dominant considerations in obtaining the best price. The words of section 75 were wide words and conferred a wide discretion on the undertakers, particularly with regard to imposing conditions.

On the other hand, there was nothing until subsection (3) imposing any obligation as to price at all. Nor was that surprising. Parliament had been dealing with sale at public auction at a reserve after advertisement, which the best price would normally be obtained. Parliament had expressly conferred on undertakers a wide

power to impose conditions, and there was no suggestion of limiting the power to the imposition of conditions which did not affect price. Many reasonable conditions would affect the price.

Further, it would be surprising, as the judge had said below, if although the undertakers had valid reasons, in the interests of their company (other than financial ones), for imposing conditions such as would enable them to refuse certain tenders, they would be obliged not to impose those conditions if they could lead to less than the best price obtainable.

Subsection (3) was dealing with a completely different case from subsection (2). Subsection (3) covered the situation where the offer had failed and the undertakers were dealing with it at the best price they could get.

Condition 3 was not directed at one or more persons tendering at the same price. What it did was to limit the size of the offer. To use the word "preference" in that situation was inapt.

More important was the point made by the judge when he had said that the proviso was only dealing with valid and effectual tenders, and that was merely another way of reintroducing the question of whether it was permissible to impose conditions such as those in condition 3.

Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Mann delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Freshfields; Beachcroft Stanleys.

Showmen who travel in group are excluded from Caravan Sites Act protection in winter quarters

Hammond and Another v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Lord Justice O'Connor, Lord Justice Neill and Sir Roger Ormrod
[Judgment June 23]

Travelling showmen who travelled as members of an organized group, "travelling together as such" in the winter months so as to be excluded from the definition of gipsies in section 16 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968 did not come within the definition during the winter months when they ceased travelling and stayed in winter quarters.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing appeals which had been heard together, brought by Monty Hammond and Elizabeth Smith and Eileen Wilson from the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Section 16 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968 provided: "The definition of gipsies in section 16 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968 did not come within the definition during the winter months when they ceased travelling and stayed in winter quarters."

Tandridge District Council and Runnymede Borough Council and upheld by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Section 16 provided: "The definition of gipsies in section 16 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968 did not come within the definition during the winter months when they ceased travelling and stayed in winter quarters."

Mr Anthony Spaight for the appellants; Mr Duncan Ouseley for the secretary of state; Mr Brian Ash for Runnymede; Tandridge was not present or represented.

LORD JUSTICE O'CONNOR said that the appellants were all travelling showmen who had acquired sites in the Surrey green belt which they used for their caravans during the winter.

Section 16 was in question because if the appellants were gipsies within the definition, they would escape the rigours of the Surrey structure plan. It was accepted that when they were travelling from fair to fair they were excluded from the definition of "gipsies" in section 16. However they contended that

during the winter months when they stayed in winter quarters they were within the definition.

In his Lordship's judgment, Mr Ouseley had said that there was no time factor in the definition. The question was whether they were persons of nomadic habit of life and that they took themselves out of the class where they were travelling showmen who were "members of an organized group... travelling together as such."

Obviously, Parliament had not intended to exclude travelling showmen *per se* from the class, so that they had to be members of an organized group. As Mr Ouseley had said, that might cover purposes quite other than travelling together, and so the words "travelling together as such" were included, thus limiting the number of people covered by the definition.

The definition had therefore a qualitative not a temporal element and accordingly the appeals would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Neill and Sir Roger Ormrod agreed.

Solicitors: E. D. C. Lord & Co, Hayes Treasury Solicitors; Mr A. M. Pearson, Addlestone.

Cambridge Tripos results: English, history, medical sciences, economics

The following Tripos examination results have been announced by Cambridge University:

English

Part I

Class I: J. J. M. (First), J. J. M. (Second), J. J. M. (Third), J. J. M. (Fourth), J. J. M. (Fifth), J. J. M. (Sixth), J. J. M. (Seventh), J. J. M. (Eighth), J. J. M. (Ninth), J. J. M. (Tenth), J. J. M. (Eleventh), J. J. M. (Twelfth), J. J. M. (Thirteenth), J. J. M. (Fourteenth), J. J. M. (Fifteenth), J. J. M. (Sixteenth), J. J. M. (Seventeenth), J. J. M. (Eighteenth), J. J. M. (Nineteenth), J. J. M. (Twentieth), J. J. M. (Twenty-first), J. J. M. (Twenty-second), J. J. M. (Twenty-third), J. J. M. (Twenty-fourth), J. J. M. (Twenty-fifth), J. J. M. (Twenty-sixth), J. J. M. (Twenty-seventh), J. J. M. (Twenty-eighth), J. J. M. (Twenty-ninth), J. J. M. (Thirtieth), J. J. M. (Thirty-first), J. J. M. (Thirty-second), J. J. M. (Thirty-third), J. J. M. (Thirty-fourth), J. J. M. (Thirty-fifth), J. J. M. (Thirty-sixth), J. J. M. (Thirty-seventh), J. J. M. (Thirty-eighth), J. J. M. (Thirty-ninth), J. J. M. (Fortieth), J. J. M. (Forty-first), J. J. M. (Forty-second), J. J. M. (Forty-third), J. J. M. (Forty-fourth), J. J. M. (Forty-fifth), J. J. M. (Forty-sixth), J. J. M. (Forty-seventh), J. J. M. (Forty-eighth), J. J. M. (Forty-ninth), J. J. M. (Fiftieth), J. J. M. (Fifty-first), J. J. M. (Fifty-second), J. J. M. (Fifty-third), J. J. M. (Fifty-fourth), J. J. M. (Fifty-fifth), J. J. M. (Fifty-sixth), J. J. M. (Fifty-seventh), J. J. M. (Fifty-eighth), J. J. M. (Fifty-ninth), J. J. M. (Sixtieth), J. J. M. (Sixty-first), J. J. M. (Sixty-second), J. J. M. (Sixty-third), J. J. M. (Sixty-fourth), J. J. M. (Sixty-fifth), J. J. M. (Sixty-sixth), J. J. M. (Sixty-seventh), J. J. M. (Sixty-eighth), J. J. M. (Sixty-ninth), J. J. M. (Seventieth), J. J. M. (Seventy-first), J. J. M. (Seventy-second), J. J. M. (Seventy-third), J. J. M. (Seventy-fourth), J. J. M. (Seventy-fifth), J. J. M. (Seventy-sixth), J. J. M. (Seventy-seventh), J. J. M. (Seventy-eighth), J. J. M. (Seventy-ninth), J. J. M. (Eightieth), J. J. M. (Eighty-first), J. J. M. (Eighty-second), J. J. M. (Eighty-third), J. J. M. (Eighty-fourth), J. J. M. (Eighty-fifth), J. J. M. (Eighty-sixth), J. J. M. (Eighty-seventh), J. J. M. (Eighty-eighth), J. J. M. (Eighty-ninth), J. J. M. (Ninetieth), J. J. M. (Ninety-first), J. J. M. (Ninety-second), J. J. M. (Ninety-third), J. J. M. (Ninety-fourth), J. J. M. (Ninety-fifth), J. J. M. (Ninety-sixth), J. J. M. (Ninety-seventh), J. J. M. (Ninety-eighth), J. J. M. (Ninety-ninth), J. J. M. (One hundredth).

History

Part I

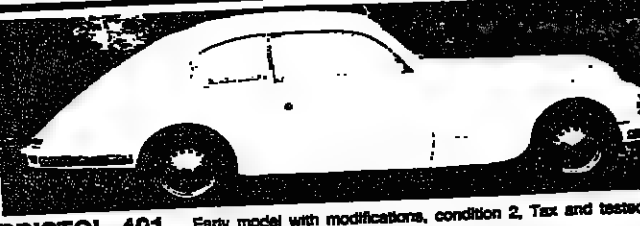
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Medical Sciences

Part I

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DRUGS IN SPORT

Beckett says testing for hormone is impossible

From John Goodbody, Ottawa

Professor Arnold Beckett yesterday said that there was not a "cat in hell's chance" of determining the misuse of Human Growth Hormone (HGH), the drug that is widely believed to be used by sportsmen as a substitute for anabolic steroids.

Professor Beckett, a member of the Medical Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), also told *The Times* that he had been informed that some members of the British team had used HGH before the world athletics championships in Helsinki in 1983, when he was supervising the drug-testing procedure. "I was even told from what source they were getting this drug," he said.

HGH, which comes from human cadavers, has been used for the last 25 years to treat children with growth hormone deficiency, but is available on the black market in both Britain and the United States. Last year, a supply worth about £50,000 disappeared from the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London.

Professor Beckett explained that, as the testing for hormone drugs was able to identify substances which had been used by an athlete up to several weeks before an event, the individual could switch to HGH to maintain physical condition before a competition and probably evade detection. Professor Beckett, who set up the British drug-testing centre at Chelsea College, now part of King's College, London University, said: "Let us be blunt. We have to be honest if we have got problems."

In the build-up to the Seoul Olympics, he identified several other areas of concern. He said there was no reliable test "now or in the foreseeable

future" for blood-doping, or blood-packing. This is the method by which competitors have a pint of their own blood drawn and refrigerated. The competitor then makes up the deficiency through training, and just before the event, the stored blood is injected back into the competitor's body.

Several sportsmen, such as a Finnish long-distance runner and the American cycling team at the 1984 Olympic Games, have admitted carrying out this practice, and it is also believed to be widespread in cross-country skiing.

Professor Beckett said it might be possible to carry out analysis for blood-doping, but it would need a battery of tests and would be "horrendously expensive".

But, he pointed out, blood-doping could become superfluous because competitors could use Erythropoietin, a material which produces red blood cells and will soon become commercially available. This would clearly be of assistance to all sports requiring great stamina. "There are some serious problems emerging," he said.

He stressed that the IOC-accredited laboratories were doing a superb job of analysis within the constraints of what they are able to test for. He advocated international legislation to force manufacturers of HGH and Erythropoietin to use "markers", additives that would not alter the chemical properties of a drug but would make it identifiable in testing. It is revolutionary in concept but not impossible, he said.

Professor Beckett said that he would have become depressed by the range of problems if it were not for the new spirit of international co-operation manifested at the first world conference against drugs in sport. "That is a very big plus," he said.

Multi-million pound challengers race to capture transatlantic blue riband



Flying Eagle: The American-owned and funded, but British-built, Gentry Eagle undergoing sea trials in the Atlantic off New York earlier this month

Gentry ready to wing across ocean

Two multi-million pound assaults on the transatlantic record are about to begin. *The Times* revealed last Friday details of the Azimut Challenger, an 88-foot, high-tensile aluminium monohull, powered by twin hydrojets, that is the flagship of a £5 million Italian challenge.

The Azimut Challenger, built in the Azimut-Benetti yard at Viareggio on Italy's Ligurian coast, arrived in Marbella on Wednesday after the first leg of her passage to New York. There, her British navigator, Dag Pike, will study his five-day advance weather reports from the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, Berkshire, before announcing a start date for the assault on Richard Branson's record of three days, eight hours and 31 minutes set in 1986 in Virgin Atlantic Challenger II.

Azimut Challenger is expected in New York by next Monday, but already waiting there to attempt the run between Ambrose Light and Bishop Rock - 3,386 miles with danger from whales, icebergs and semi-submerged objects - is the American millionaire, Tom Gentry, and his Gentry Eagle.

Gentry, aged 57, from Honolulu, is

the holder of the world offshore powerboat speed record, having achieved 148.238 m.p.h. in March 1987. Britain will have more than a passing interest in Gentry's challenge, for his 110-foot Eagle was built by Vosper Thornycroft at Portsmouth, where a command centre has been set up to monitor her progress when she attempts to break the record, possibly at the beginning of next week. It is not beyond the bounds of chance that the two boats will pass in mid-Atlantic.

Aiso made from aluminium, the Eagle will be powered by two MTU 396 TB94s, sequentially turbocharged marine diesels r.p.m. and also linked to water-jets. She also has a single Avco Lycoming 4,500 hp marine turbine connected to a fixed Arneson surface drive, which can be lifted from the water when not in use and will not be employed full-time during the crossing.

Gentry has sunk \$5.5 million (about £3.2 million) of his own money into the campaign, along with several "generous donations" from sponsors. The Gentry Eagle's chief designer is



Gentry: £3m investment

a Briton, Peter Birkett, who also helped design Branson's first Challenger, which broke up and sank only 138 miles short of the finish.

Not surprisingly, for their crews, both camps have drawn from British veterans of Branson's enterprises. Pike was also Branson's navigator, on both runs, while Gentry has secured the services of Branson's engineering designer, Peter Downie. He once worked for Graham Hill, Stirling Moss and Dan Gurney when he began his career

with racing cars before switching to waterborne racecraft in 1969.

Norman Gentry, aged 32, Tom Gentry's son, will be Eagle's chief navigator, but the team has yet to announce its fare-paying passenger, a prerequisite of any attempt to win the blue riband and the Hales Trophy. Challenger will have Winthrop P. Rockefeller, the American millionaire, on board, reputedly paying a \$1 million fare for the privilege.

That condition provides the greatest contrast between the rival challenges. Branson was not awarded the blue riband because he refuelled on the way, and it is difficult to see how Gentry can claim anything but the record should he succeed, for he also proposes to refuel.

The Italians are leaving nothing to chance and are carrying 82 tons of diesel fuel, twice the weight of Challenger, to attempt the record non-stop. They believe they will satisfy all the conditions that stand between them and the blue riband, which is still held by the liner, United States, from her passage in 1952.

Steve Acteson

MODERN PENTATHLON

New event keeps Britain to the fore

Men and women will compete alongside one another for the first time when Biscley, Bracknell and Windsor share the staging of the 13-nation Grant Thornton champion of champions event on July 10. The innovation, announced yesterday, celebrates the tenth anniversary of the champion of champions event, which sees all five disciplines staged on one day.

Keith Clark, president of the Modern Pentathlon Association of Great Britain, said: "We are delighted that Great Britain will once again be initiating a new modern pentathlon competition. We were the first country to hold a one-day champion of champions and we also led the world in the introduction of women into the sport. Now these two initiatives are brought to fruition with the first combined competition."

Britain will field two teams in the competition. The first team will be Graham Brookhouse, Wendy Norman, Brookhouse, from Cheltenham, is the British champion of champions who is taking a year off from teaching physical education to concentrate on Olympic training.

Dominic Mahony, a member of the bronze medal-winning team at the world champion ships, and Teresa Purton form Britain's second string. Another British competitor, Louise Ball, will team up with the Australian athlete, Alex Watson, in an extra team in recognition of the Australian bicentennial.

HOCKEY

Weekend of decision at Leicester

By Joyce Whitehead

The Great Britain women's party of 16 for the Olympic Games will be announced after two matches against Canada at Abbey Meadows, Leicester, tomorrow and Sunday. Three of the 19 players in the training squad will have to drop out.

The British coach, Denis Hay, has assessed all the players but knows the final choice will not be easy. Form at Leicester could be decisive in some cases.

Britain beat Canada in an international tournament in Germany two weeks ago, but since the Canadians arrived in Britain, on June 20, they have won six successive matches. GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD: J. Allen (Eng), W. Banks (Wales), C. Bower (Eng), G. Brown (Eng), K. Brown (Eng), J. Cooke (Eng), V. Gillingham (Eng), J. Goss (Eng), J. Hambley (Eng), J. Jordan (Eng), V. Moshir (Eng), M. Nelson (Eng), J. O'Sullivan (Eng), K. Parker (Eng), A. Ramsey (Eng), J. Smith (Eng), and J. Williams (Eng).

JUDO

Adams aims to seal Olympic place

By Nicolas Soames

The competition for places in the British Olympic team between the light-middleweights, Neil Adams and Paul Sheals, and the featherweights, Stephen Galloway and Mark Adcock, is expected to be settled at the Austrian Open championships, near Linz this weekend.

In a sense it is a battle between the old guard and the new, with the likelihood that the place at Seoul will go to Adams and Galloway, both of whom have won major tournaments this year. Adams, who has won silver medals in the last two

Olympics, is less concerned with the selection battle than with winning the event outright. Last month he won a silver in a testing tournament in Sardinia, losing only on a penalty. "I really lost that fight because I was slightly rusty with competition gripping," he admitted. "I have had to come to terms with the fact that I will not always be able to get my favourite grip and I have been working on a more flexible approach."

Sheals has an unenviable assignment but the gap between

Galloway, world bronze medal winner in 1985, and Adcock, aged 25, is closer. For Galloway had a poor European championship, although he won the British Open. Mark Preston could also make a late bid for selection if he does well.

The other candidates for the British team - Kerriah Brown (lightweight), Dennis White (middleweight) and Elvis Gordon (heavyweight) - are training in Japan. The lightweight, Dennis Stewart, is being treated for a chipped bone.

GYMNASTICS

Cup's new opportunity

By Peter Aykroyd

The finals of the first European Cup begin in Florence today, a three-day event that is an innovation of the European Union of Gymnastics designed to increase the competitive opportunities outside the biennial European championships.

The 12 best gymnasts - men and women - from eight international qualifying events appear in the finals. Andrew Morris was the only Briton to participate in the Cup, but was unable to qualify.

These first finals do not

feature many gymnasts from Europe's top echelon. However, leading the men's finalists is György Gucsa, the experienced Hungarian who is ranked ninth in the world, but two young Soviets, Sergei Kharkov and Vladimir Schopchkin, could well surprise their seniors.

Two well known Bulgarians - Diana Dudaeva and Boryana Stoyanova, both in the world's top 20 - top the women's section. They, too, will be under pressure from two young Soviets, Natalia Lashchenova and Elena Shevchenko.

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CRICKET: FINE SPELL BY PRINGLE MAKES THE CHAMPIONSHIP LEADERS STRUGGLE WHILE AT TAUNTON IT IS A DAY OF THREE HUNDREDS

Cultured exhibition takes Waugh past 1,000 runs for June

By John Woodcock

TAUNTON: Glamorgan, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 42 runs ahead of Somerset.

Waugh's customary hundred and Roebuck's first of the season raised the batting to unforeseen heights at Taunton yesterday. Together they had added 179 in 43 overs for Somerset's third wicket when, with 40 minutes left, Roebuck declared to improve the chances of a finish today. The reward for that was the immediate dismissal of Glamorgan's opening pair and shortly afterwards of a night-watcher.

It would have seemed hardly possible before the match started, or as Glamorgan struggled to 66 for four on the first morning, that the pitch would so belie its extraordinary appearance. In the first five hours yesterday only three wickets fell while 333 runs were being scored.

In the morning even Waugh, who is really no batsman at all (he bowled quite promisingly) was able to help Holmes add 67 for Glamorgan's ninth wicket. Holmes was 53 when Waugh came in; when he went to his hundred 85 minutes later he gave Waugh a well-deserved pat on the back. Holmes had

looked an excellent player; so, in a more studious way, did Roebuck. As for Waugh, his second 50 was positively brilliant.

Roebuck's was his first championship innings since he had his left wrist broken in the nets on May 20. It quite often helps to have a mid-season breather, even an enforced one. On the other hand I suppose if Roebuck had made not one hundred but three or four by now, he just might have caught the selectors' eye. Whether, with his mighty intellect, he could have worked out how to play the West Indian fast bowlers, as he has those who make up the county scene, might just have been thought worth discovering.

After a nasty lifter had accounted for Hardy, and a nice low slip catch for Wyatt, Roebuck and Waugh were soon providing an object lesson to any young on the ground as to how to run between wickets. Waugh, of course, is in prime form — and like that other Somerset batsman, whom he so resembles, Greg Chappell, he is an effortless judge of a run.

In all competitions in June he scored 1,046 runs for Somerset, 750 of them in the

championship at an average of 12.5. Yesterday's was his sixth hundred of the month, four of them first-class. His style is unassuming, his method orthodox, his hitting crisp, his footwork silent.

GLAMORGAN: First innings
A R Butcher c Morris b Roebuck 36
A J Hopkins b Foster 11
M Morris c Burns b Harris 20
M P Maynard lbw b Foster 20
R J Sheehan not out 100
G C Holmes not out 100
R C O'Connor c Burns b Foster 10
Derrick c Harris b Morris 17
J C P Meston c Burns b Foster 17
S L Watson not out 12
Extras (lb 1, lb 14, w 1, nb 19) 34
Total (lb wickets dec, 99.2 overs) 252

SOMERSET: First innings
J J E Hardy c Morris b Roebuck 112
J G Wyatt c Hopkins b Derrick 6
R A Waugh not out 100
R J Sheehan not out 100
Extras (lb 1, lb 14, w 1, nb 19) 34
Total (lb wickets dec, 99.2 overs) 252

Second innings
A R Butcher not out 58
A J Hopkins b Foster 11
M Morris not out 20
M P Maynard not out 20
R J Sheehan not out 100
Extras (lb 1, lb 14, w 1, nb 19) 34
Total (lb wickets dec, 99.2 overs) 252

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4, 5-5, 6-6, 7-7, 8-8, 9-9, 10-10, 11-11, 12-12, 13-13, 14-14, 15-15, 16-16, 17-17, 18-18, 19-19, 20-20, 21-21, 22-22, 23-23, 24-24, 25-25, 26-26, 27-27, 28-28, 29-29, 30-30, 31-31, 32-32, 33-33, 34-34, 35-35, 36-36, 37-37, 38-38, 39-39, 40-40, 41-41, 42-42, 43-43, 44-44, 45-45, 46-46, 47-47, 48-48, 49-49, 50-50, 51-51, 52-52, 53-53, 54-54, 55-55, 56-56, 57-57, 58-58, 59-59, 60-60, 61-61, 62-62, 63-63, 64-64, 65-65, 66-66, 67-67, 68-68, 69-69, 70-70, 71-71, 72-72, 73-73, 74-74, 75-75, 76-76, 77-77, 78-78, 79-79, 80-80, 81-81, 82-82, 83-83, 84-84, 85-85, 86-86, 87-87, 88-88, 89-89, 90-90, 91-91, 92-92, 93-93, 94-94, 95-95, 96-96, 97-97, 98-98, 99-99, 100-100, 101-101, 102-102, 103-103, 104-104, 105-105, 106-106, 107-107, 108-108, 109-109, 110-110, 111-111, 112-112, 113-113, 114-114, 115-115, 116-116, 117-117, 118-118, 119-119, 120-120, 121-121, 122-122, 123-123, 124-124, 125-125, 126-126, 127-127, 128-128, 129-129, 130-130, 131-131, 132-132, 133-133, 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1109-1109, 1110-1110, 1111-1111, 1112-1112, 1113-1113, 1114-1114, 1115-1115, 1116-1116, 1117-1117, 1118-1118, 1119-1119, 1120-1120, 1121-1121, 1122-1122, 1123-1123, 1124-1124, 1125-1125, 1126-1126, 1127-1127, 1128-1128, 1129-1129, 1130-1130, 1131-1131, 1132-1132, 1133-1133, 1134-1134, 1135-1135, 1136-1136, 1137-1137, 1138-1138, 1139-1139, 1140-1140, 1141-1141, 1142-1142, 1143-1143, 1144-1144, 1145-1145, 1146-1146, 1147-1147, 1148-1148, 1149-1149, 1150-1150, 1151-1151, 1152-1152, 1153-1153, 1154-1154, 1155-1155, 1156-1156, 1157-1157, 1158-1158, 1159-1159, 1160-1160, 1161-1161, 1162-1162, 1163-1163, 1164-1164, 1165-1165, 1166-1166, 1167-1167, 1168-1168, 1169-1169, 1170-1170, 1171-1171, 1172-1172, 1173-1173, 1174-1174, 1175-11

As you were as Graf meets Navratilova

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Steffi Graf will play Martina Navratilova in the Wimbledon women's singles final for the second consecutive year. Yesterday Navratilova took two hours and nine minutes to beat Chris Evert, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, but Graf needed only 59 minutes to defeat Pam Shriver, 6-1, 6-2.

Navratilova has already won the title eight times, a record she shares with Helen Wills Moody. She wants to have that record to herself by winning the title again tomorrow. There was a time yesterday when it seemed that she might have to be content with the role of losing semi-finalist.

Navratilova played a first set that was regal in its authority. She is probably the most gifted grass-court player the women's game has ever known, and all her best qualities were in evidence. She even had the confidence and ball control to take on Evert in the kind of base-line rallies at which Evert excels. Essentially, though, Navratilova's advantage was physical.

Thus we were swiftly reminded that the centre court at Wimbledon has become something of a private empire for Navratilova. There did not seem to be much Evert could do about. She matched Navratilova only in ground



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strokes, will-power, and wisdom. All Evert could do was to vary her game as tidily as possible in an effort to disrupt Navratilova's rhythm and, perhaps, make the champion a prey to self-doubt.

Evert had won both their previous matches this year, and she played well yesterday. She varied her length and pace and angle. The depths of her drives and the precision of her passing shots and lobs were soon making Navratilova think twice about going to the net.

The challenge gradually became stiffer and the second set interrupted for 70 minutes by light rain — produced some enthralling tennis.

Navratilova was beginning to make a few mistakes, partly because of a slight erosion of confidence, and partly because Evert was now playing almost flawlessly well. Evert took that set when

Navratilova hit a wild smash and was then off the mark with a forehand. So to a third set in which an already exciting and highly-skilled match became even better. Navratilova achieved a 3-1 lead, but Evert struck back with a series of passing shots that buzzed past Navratilova like arrows. Evert's anticipation and footwork and racket control were admirable.

When Evert was serving at 4-5 they had a marvellous game in which Navratilova had a match point. Navratilova charged to the net, but Evert frustrated her with a superb forehand passing shot down the line. In the next game, Navratilova easily held her service. That left Evert serving at 5-6, and she swiftly went 0-40 down — three more match points. Evert saved one with a bold backhand that hit the line and forced an error. Navratilova missed the second chance by mis-hitting an awkward smash.

Then came a disappointing and slightly controversial finish. Evert played a cross-court forehand that clipped the net cord, beat Navratilova, and seemed to make contact with the sideline. But Navratilova instantly turned to glare at the line judge, who slowly raised an arm to signal that Evert's shot was out. There were boos

and a slow handclap. It was certainly a sad finish to what had turned into a thrilling match.

Graf works harder in practice than she had yesterday against Shriver, who at least took one more game from her than was the case in their semi-final last year. Graf hit harder and deeper, moved faster, and played at an altogether higher level. She hit a flashing stream of winners. Her reactions were quicker and she seemed to regard most of Shriver's shots as invitations to a party.

Shriver did her best, whenever she happened to be in the same neighbourhood as the ball. But going to the net, which is her custom, was more hazardous than usual because she risked being perforated.

Watching this match, after that between Navratilova and Evert, was rather like drifting gently into harbour after enduring a storm at sea. The soft sunlight of evening deserved a more glittering spectacle than Shriver could produce.

Gomer on course

Sara Gomer, the British No. 3 from Torquay, remained on course to retain the women's Plate at Wimbledon yesterday by beating Eva Pfaff of West Germany, 6-1, 6-2 to reach the semi-finals.



Ever-popular: Evert's defeat saw the crowd once more on her side (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Familiar frailties exposed

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

OLD TRAFFORD (England won toss): West Indies, with all first-innings wickets standing, are 131 runs behind England. England have suffered all manner of bad experiences against the West Indian pace attack but seldom has the flag of surrender been raised with quite such embarrassing haste as on this opening day of the third Cornhill Test match. They were dismissed, inside 61 overs, for 135. Only three times, in 52 home Tests against this opposition, have they been bowled out for fewer.

By mid-afternoon the fund of pre-match English optimism had been thoroughly exhausted. The strongest batting side available had been humiliated, all six specialists gone for an aggregate of 69 runs. Worse still, at least four of the six were guilty of careless contributions to their own downfall.

Gooch, Gower and Lamb were out to loose strokes against balls they could easily have left alone. Gattings, resurrecting a half-forgotten nightmare, was leg before to one he did leave alone. If you had asked each of the four to demonstrate their most irritating frailty, they could hardly have done so more faithfully.

The most acutely depressing aspect was that everything had been going well — until the first ball was bowled. After a lengthy and often animated mid-pitch conference involving all five selectors, England had summoned the sense and courage to name a balanced side, including two spinners. Childs making his debut. When Emburey then won the toss, the opportunity was there to build a score and apply pressure on the West Indian batting.

The theory was sound enough. In practice, it was a disaster. Conditions were not, it is true, as friendly for batting as England would have hoped. Perhaps the pitch had sweated under the tarpaulins; certainly, it allowed the seamers, Marshall in particular, some extravagant sideways movement. This, however, cannot justify what followed.

Moxon had been preferred to Broad, which was mildly astonishing after the way in which the captain and manager had argued against a reluctant chairman of selectors for his retention in the party. The Yorkshireman, however, had resisted bravely at Lord's and he hinted at something similar during the early overs here. But he had

still not scored, after 33 minutes, when Marshall pierced an imperfect forward push.

Gattings entered to an ovation expressive of widespread sympathy for the martyr. The crowd, disappointingly no more than 10,000, would have loved nothing more than a familiarly pugnacious Gattings innings. Instead, they got a familiarly awful Gattings dismissal.

Marshall all but bowled him second ball off the inside edge. Two balls later, producing another off-cutter, he was grateful to find the former captain shouldering arms. The appeal was made on banded knees and umpire Constant's finger was raised with the air of one who has seen it all before.

Gattings once considered that the Lord's Test of 1984.

TV TIMES: BBC1 10.30 a.m.-1 p.m. BBC2 12.45-1.30 p.m. Highlights 12.05 a.m. (tomorrow).

WEATHER: Shifting cloudy with outbreaks of rain, turning drier with sunny intervals and occasional showers.

when he was twice out in this fashion to Marshall, was the low point of his career. Yesterday's dismissal, coming on top of all his recent troubles, may prompt a rethink. He has now scored only 254 runs in 16 innings against the West Indies, a statistic to make a proud man wince.

Gower was next to depart and, wouldn't you know it, he fell to that instinctive flick at a ball leaving him outside off stump. Harper, included when Haynes was declared unfit, took the catch at third slip.

Manful defiance followed from Gooch and Lamb the two men whose records against this opposition stand to the closest scrutiny. With lunch in sight as a temporary sanctuary, however, Gooch inexplicably drove, firm-footed, at a wide one from Benjamin and was caught behind.

England were now 56 for four but Capel is so well versed in crisis he might have mistaken this for a good start. On his debut, against Pakistan last summer, he came in at 31 for five; in his second Test at Lahore in November, it was 44 for four in the first innings and 66 for five in the second. This time, the hero's role eluded him. Eight overs of correct defence came to nothing when Benjamin beat him with a violent backbreak.

Shortly before the rain arrived at 3 p.m. Lamb perished to a square cut, the shot he



Irresistible appeal: Marshall greets Gattings' misjudgement which cost him his wicket

SCOREBOARD FROM OLD TRAFFORD

England won toss

ENGLAND First Innings		Rs	4s	Mins	Balls
G A Gooch c Dujon b Benjamin	27	—	3	100	81
M A Moxon b Marshall	0	—	1	35	22
M W Gattings lbw b Marshall	0	—	1	6	4
D I Gower c Harper b Walsh	0	—	2	29	20
A L Lamb c Greenidge b Ambrose	33	—	8	113	82
D J Capel b Benjamin	1	—	22	18	16
J P R Downton c Greenidge b Walsh	24	—	2	87	63
J E Emburey c Dujon b Walsh	1	—	1	18	17
P A J DeFreitas c Greenidge b Ambrose	15	—	3	31	28
G R Dilley c Harper b Walsh	14	—	3	29	21
J H Childs not out	2	—	1	19	12
Extras (lb 4, nb 6)	10	—	—	—	—
Total (60.2 overs)	135	—	—	—	—

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-14, 3-33, 4-55, 5-61, 6-64, 7-68, 8-113, 9-123. BOWLING: Marshall 12-5-19-2, Ambrose 17-5-35-2 (nb 1); Walsh 18-24-46-4 (nb 5); Benjamin 13-4-31-2.

WEST INDIES First Innings		Rs	4s	Mins	Balls
C G Greenidge not out	4	—	1	13	12
R B Richardson not out	0	—	—	—	—
Extras	4	—	—	—	—
Total (3 overs)	4	—	—	—	—

* V A Richards, C L Hooper, A L Logie, J P Dujon, R A Harper, M D Marshall, W K M Benjamin, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh to bat. FALL OF WICKETS: Dilley 2-14-4-0; Emburey 1-1-0-0. Umpires: D J Constant and N T Piers.

Bruno confused by Tyson's announcement

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Frank Bruno was pondering his future yesterday after reports of Mike Tyson's retirement following a dispute with his manager, Bill Cayton. His bout with the world heavyweight champion at Wembley Stadium on September 3 will be called off if the reports are true and Tyson does not change his mind.

"I am as confused as anybody else," Bruno said at Heathrow after returning from Atlantic City, where he had been watching Tyson defend successfully against Michael Spinks. "I don't know what's happening," he said. "It's very disappointing. One minute I'm going to fight Tyson, the next it's all off. I'm just going to keep training, stay ready and see what happens."

Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, said: "I cannot believe Tyson will retire. Give it another seven days and I think we will see a change."

Lawless's advice seemed sensible. A lot can happen in seven days in the life of a "retired" undisputed world champion.

Boxing circles remain sceptical. Simon Block, of the British Boxing Board of Control, said: "As far as we are concerned, Tyson is still champion. I am afraid I'm a bit cynical when it comes to

boxers retiring. We shall do nothing until we hear from the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association."

That, too, was the reaction of the New York State Athletic Commission, boxing's controlling body in New York. "Boxers are forever retiring and coming back. We shall just have to wait it out."

Bruno will have to wait until November to see if Tyson means what he is reported to have said. If Tyson does not defend by then he will be stripped of his title by the WBC and WBA. Bruno would then either meet the No. 2 or take part in an elimination series. Much depends on how the WBC and WBA view the situation in the absence of Tyson.

Since the WBC No. 2 is Pinklon Thomas and the WBA No. 2 is Tyrell Biggs, it is likely that the two bodies will decide on an elimination series. At any rate, we would be back to three champions.

Lawless and Bruno are waiting in New York for the results of talks between Tyson and Cayton, whom the champion wants to dismiss. The bout with Tyson would mean £1 million to Bruno. He would get nothing like that if he faced Thomas or Biggs or Carl Williams.

McNulty's 62 is a pre-Lytham boost

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Monte Carlo

Mark McNulty seized the initiative in the Monte Carlo Open when he put together a spectacular second round of 62, seven under par, on the Mont Agel course here yesterday.

McNulty, who has a half-way aggregate of 128, has developed into one of the finest golfers on the PGA European tour. He is such a consistent striker of the ball that even on this undulating course he has no hesitation in employing his driver at all but the short holes.

Yet the paradox is that McNulty, now aged 34, regards par as a blessing in disguise. He said: "Bobby Locke once told me always to play full par. I have always been a patient man but I have had to curb my natural aggress-

sion on the greens. I had to learn to accept that as my game improved, so I hit more greens and I couldn't expect to hole every putt. If I did that, then I would be shooting 59 every day."

McNulty's hero, as a youngster, was Gary Player. Coincidentally the Open this year is at Royal Lytham and St Anne's, where, in 1974, Player won the third of his Open titles. McNulty said: "I have been there, I like it and Gary has told me all about it. I think I can win."

Most certainly the bookmakers share that belief, offering McNulty at around 20-1. That he has the ability there can be no doubt. But he has still to prove himself on the links. Even so, he believes that he is now capable of making his game fit any course.

"To me that is the secret," McNulty said. "A lot of people say that this or that golf course will suit your game. I have scrubbed that off the blackboard. If you are a good player, you can play anywhere."

Ballesteros, with a 66, remained in touch with McNulty but it was José Rivero, following a two-hour suspension in play because of low cloud, who moved onto McNulty's heels with five birdies in a 64. Meanwhile Faldó, despite understandably suffering from mental fatigue, stuck to his task to score 65 for 136.

LEADING SECOND ROUND SCORES (62 and below unless stated): 128: McNulty (22m), 66: 62: 128: J Rivero (Sp), 66: 64: 67: J Ballesteros (Sp), 65: 66: 128: G Lavanchy (Sw), 67: 62: 136: A Sherborne, 65: 66: 136: A Gordo (Sp), 65: 66: 64: C Lomax (Sp), 66: 67: 136: H Jones (US), 67: 66: A Sorenson (Den), 67: 69: 66: Teravainen (US), 72: 64: N Faldó, 71: 65.

END COLUMN

Facility riddle thrown open

By Douglas Brown and Peter Ball

Confusion last night surrounded Government plans for the running of local council sports and leisure facilities. Is it going to insist on full privatization, with private contractors in control, or is it asking only that local authorities allow private companies to tender for management?

There were assertions by Government sources that there was no question of fresh privatization, and the Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, is expected to make a Commons announcement about the plans, either today or early next week, in an attempt to halt speculation.

Senior sources said emphatically last night that councils would be required only to seek tenders from private firms for providing staff to physically operate leisure facilities. There was no question of wholesale privatization and councils would retain control of pricing and admission policies. There was also no question of handing public parks over to private contractors.

But the official assurances were greeted with scepticism by sports bodies, local government associations and trade union leaders.

News that came 'out of the blue'

Peter Lawson, the general secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, said the news that an announcement was imminent was "out of the blue. We understood that consultation was continuing, but it seems it is over and the Government is galloping ahead."

"It is a body blow to British sport in this Olympic year," Lawson continued. "Harold Macmillan once described privatization as selling off the family silver. This policy is putting the family future at risk."

"I called it a body blow, but this is more like the final uppercut. They are already selling off school playing fields and allowing competitive sport to be run down in schools."

The Sports Council's response was more guarded, even giving the news a cautious welcome. Its statement emphasized that the council "strongly endorses the need to maximize efficiency" in the running of the centres, with the important qualification that local authorities retained the right to control accessibility and pricing for children and underprivileged groups.

Of the individual sports, swimming in particular is concerned at the possible implications, seeing both the teaching of swimming and the needs of Olympic swimmers for access to pools at risk.

The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) will be presenting a parliamentary petition at Westminster this morning: it will be led by a group stretching across the whole swimming spectrum, from Duncan Goodhew, the former Olympic champion, to a four-year-old non-swimmer.

Closure of pools taking its toll

ASA clubs teach 250,000 people a year to swim, and all the clubs have waiting lists for the courses. Already, the closure of pools is taking its toll. "We are teaching fewer people to swim than ever before," Hamilton Bland, of the ASA, said. "It is a vital activity — drowning is the third most frequent cause of death."

The average 25-metre pool loses £159,000 a year. To be made more attractive, wave machines, slides, and chutes are a natural development for a private company, but that would cut across teaching and serious swimming.

There was particular concern about the effect of the proposals on education with the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, Fred Jarvis, warning that schools could be excluded from swimming pools and sports centres.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said the plans would result in the run-down of sports and leisure facilities in less prosperous or thinly populated areas.

"It's a recipe for increased vandalism and rising tensions in inner city areas as the young jobless will be denied access to what will become elitist centres for the well-off," he said.

Hunter stalks Games place

From Jenny MacArthur, Aachen

Janet Hunter and Everest Lisnamarrow, one of eight partnerships on Britain's Olympic show-jumping shortlist, face their toughest trial in today's Nations' Cup event, in which they have been picked to go second for the British team.

The three other members of the team are Nick Skelton (Apollon), Malcolm Pyrah (Towerlands Anglezark), and David Broome (Queensway Countryman). These three riders are near certainties for an Olympic team place providing their horses retain their form.

Michael Whitaker, the fifth British rider here, has been excluded from the team, although this does not mean he is out of contention for an

Olympic place. On the contrary, Ronnie Massarella, the team manager, who has never made any secret of his wish to have Whitaker in the Olympic team, said yesterday that Whitaker and his top horse, Nesi Amanda, were only left out because he has nothing to learn from watching them go.

Hunter, meanwhile, has been showing superb form in what is known to be the toughest arena in Europe. The pair finished 10th on the opening day and were third in Wednesday's championship class. If the selectors want to have confirmation that she can cope with the pressure of a big occasion, they should have their answer today.

Yesterday, all the British riders were resting their top horses, but that did not keep them out of the money. Broome and Pyrah finished third and fourth respectively in the three-round Prize Nordrhein-Westfalen, won by Dirk Schroder, of West Germany.

RESULTS: Prize Nordrhein-Westfalen: 1, Cedra (D Schroder, WGr), 0 faults in 42.12sec; 2, Whinose Grey (J McVean, Aus), 0 in 43.57; 3, Queensway Lammegan (D Broome, GB), 4m in 45.75; 4, Towerlands Anglezark (M Pyrah, GB), 4m in 46.18. Teams of Three (50sec Class): 1, Ireland, 0m in 104.11sec; 2, West Germany, 4m in 108.4; 3, Switzerland, 4m in 109.54. Dressage Intermediate (10m): 1, Courage (A K Lisenhoff, WGr), 11.50 points; 2, Torano (J Krug, WGr), 11.26pts; 3, Amazonas (J Bonifant, WGr), 11.18pts. Rhythmic: 1, Proccolo (J Durio-Wilson, SpGr), 12.00pts; 2, Schwaigo (H Fischer, WGr), 10.82; 3, Corino (P Epping, WGr), 10.16. British: 16, Krist (S Hammond), 8.95.

Britain hopeful

Great Britain maintained their hopes of reaching the final round of the Olympic basketball qualifying tournament in Rotterdam next week by overwhelming the Republic of Ireland 106-69 last night.

Steve Bucknall (22 points) was Britain's top scorer for the second successive game.

Sonntag dies

Wellington (AFP) — New Zealand's oldest former Rugby Union player, Charlie Sonntag, died in Dunedin yesterday, aged 94.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Redmond: first major race

Back on track

Derek Redmond, the UK 400 metres record-holder, has recovered from a strained hamstring and will have his first big race of the season in Oslo tomorrow.

Success again

The Cambridge sailing team won the annual University team racing event for the fourth successive year yesterday, after Oxford threw away the chance to draw level in the best-of-seven series at Cowes, as one of their number hit a mark and Cambridge took the event 4-2.

Dublin date

The Republic of Ireland will play England in a football exhibition match in Dublin next May.

Shearn chosen

Nicola Shearn, the ASA national champion, will represent Great Britain in the synchronized swimming solo event at the Seoul Olympics.

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